

Gazans voice support for King

AMMAN (Petra) — Gazans living in Jordan on Monday expressed their full support for Jordanian-Palestinian unity and for His Majesty King Hussein's leadership and speech to the nation. The Gazans' expression of support came during a meeting they had with the King at the Royal Court. The meeting was also attended by delegations arriving from Gaza for this purpose. In a speech to the delegations, the King thanked them for their support saying that Jordanians and Palestinians share collective responsibility towards the Arab Nation. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior officials.

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King voices solidarity with Kuwait

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable on Monday to the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, congratulating him on the occasion of Kuwait's National Day and expressing Jordan's solidarity with Kuwait against aggression. In his cable, the King said: "While Jordan shares the joy of Kuwait and its people on this occasion, we also express our solidarity with Kuwait against plans directed against the eastern flank of the Arab Nation." The principled and clear stand of Kuwait in denouncing aggressors in Arab territory, water and rights will remain to be a manifestation of the principle of the common Arab destiny and Arab solidarity in the face of common dangers. These dangers which now threaten the Arab Mashrek do not differ in intention from those of the Israeli enemy. The King also wished Sheikh Jaber continuing good health and the Kuwaitis further prosperity.

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Israelis continuing searches in Balata

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Members of an Israeli-Palestinian group said on Monday that Israel was conducting night searches in Balata refugee camp. They said 170 Palestinians were detained. The "Committee to Confront the Iron Fist" told a news conference Israel was torturing the detainees and holding some for months. Mohammad Mahmoud, 13, said he was beaten, doused with cold water and roped to a chair while being held for 18 days after an Israeli army sweep through Balata in November. He said he and his older brother were seized when soldiers found that they considered anti-Israeli books in their home.

Chad expecting new 'Libyan' attack

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chadian Information Minister, Mahamat Soumaila, on Monday accused Libya of massing troops in rebel-held northern Chad for a fresh offensive. Fighting in Chad's 20-year civil war flared this month south of the 16th parallel, which had been for 2½ years an unofficial truce line between the pro-Western government and the Libyan-backed rebels.

Soviet satellite may crash to earth in days

BONN (R) — A Soviet satellite is out of control and will crash to earth in a matter of days, West German experts said Monday. Cosmonauts failed to reach its planned orbit after its launch on Dec. 28 and was now orbiting earth at a distance of some 160 kilometres at its nearest point, they said. Experts at the research institute for high-frequency physics in Wuerthofen near Bonn, which is monitoring the flight for the West German Interior Ministry, told Reuters the satellite would partly burn up in the atmosphere.

Pakistan concerned over Indian aid to Kabul

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan expressed concern on Monday over reported assistance India is providing to the Soviet-backed Afghan government in Afghanistan. "Pakistan has noted with concern the reports regarding extension of the Indian assistance to the Kabul regime, including military training facilities," Zain Noorani, minister of state for foreign affairs, told the Upper House of Parliament.

Spain seeks extradition of suspect in Denmark

BARCELONA (Agencies) — Spanish police have asked Denmark to extradite a Gambian citizen who they suspect was involved in the killing of two Israelis in Barcelona last October. Officials said Monday. Police spokesman Manuel Gimenez said police were awaiting a reply to an extradition request for James Gomez, a Gambian who was arrested in Copenhagen last Monday accused of shoplifting. A second suspect, an Israeli Arab, is still at large.

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King: Jordanian-Palestinian goals remain the same

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received large numbers of citizens from Balqa Governorate, Tafleeh Governorate, Baqa'a camp and Druze tribes in Jordan who called at the Royal Court to express their support and backing for King Hussein.

Addressing the audience, King Hussein said that he is proud of the brotherly relations linking the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples and of their honesty in dealing with the prevailing circumstances and situations. The King requested the representatives present at the gathering to convey his love and gratitude to the whole Jordanian-Palestinian family. King Hussein said that he wanted to involve Jordanians and Palestinians in the difficult, tortuous and long march to shoulder their joint responsibilities and to liberate kinsmen and brothers in the occupied Arab territories and to regain the holy places.

The King went on to say that citizens have the right to be told of all the developments. He said that this is not only his own personal conviction but it also complies with the verses (from the Koran) which calls on Muslims to consult each other. King Hussein added that he could not underestimate the size of the challenges and dangers confronting the people of Jordan and their kinsmen in the occupied Arab territories. Such challenges and dangers are beyond human reach, but yet we are facing them here in this particular part of the Arab World. Jordanians and Palestinians alike, King Hussein said. The King added that Jordanians and Palestinians are the armoured of the whole Arab nation and thus they are all working towards one goal, that is "liberating the land and holy places and defending our existence." The King pledged to continue to work towards achieving these goals.

King Hussein said that both he and the Jordanian government find it hard to express their feelings because they cannot accept that all the sacrifices and bloodshed on Palestinian soil has been to no avail. The King added the suffering of our kinsmen in the occupied Arab territories should not constitute a chapter of the tragedy but should be alleviated and removed by effectively defending their rights. "With pain and sorrow, we have said that we can no longer work politically with the PLO leadership and we presented the facts to you because legitimate representatives derive their power from those they represent. Therefore, you are requested to discuss the issue with honesty and clear vision to follow the path towards achieving the goals and objectives," the King continued.

A clear course



His Majesty King Hussein greets representatives of various popular and official organizations who visited the Royal Court on Monday to voice support for his leadership and policy (Petra photo).

Qasem urges Palestinians to 'reconsider priorities'

Mubarak receives King's message

CAIRO (Agencies) — Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem on Monday called on Palestinians to "reconsider priorities... to save the land and our people" in order to revive stalled efforts towards a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

Speaking to reporters after a 90-minute meeting with President Hosni Mubarak, Mr. Qasem told reporters: "I have conveyed to President Mubarak Jordan's views on how to proceed with the peace efforts in the new stage." The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported that Mr. Qasem delivered to President Mubarak a message from His Majesty King Hussein. The message, Petra said, dealt with planned high-level meetings between Jordan and Egypt and was part of the ongoing consultation and coordination between the two countries.

Mr. Qasem said King Hussein's decision last week to terminate political coordination with the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was intended to give the Palestinian people time to reflect on and reconsider means to liberate the occupied territories. "The disagreement is not between the PLO and Jordan," Mr. Qasem said. "The disagreement is between the political leadership of the PLO and Jordan." He added, "during this period, we must give our Palestinian brothers wherever they are a chance to re-consider priorities which might enable us to save the land and our people."

Prosecutors begin probe on Kohl

KOBLENZ, West Germany (AP) — A Koblenz prosecutor said on Monday he had started an investigation of Chancellor Helmut Kohl to determine whether the West German leader lied to a legislative committee probing alleged illegal political contributions. Heribert Braun, chief of the Koblenz prosecutor's office, said the West German parliament had been formally notified of the inquiry as required by law. "An investigation is proceeding on account of suspicion of false statements" by Dr. Kohl, Mr. Braun said. The prosecutor had announced last week his intention to investigate Dr. Kohl.

Jordan's relationship with the PLO is a close one, as is the case between any Arab state and the PLO. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Abdul Meguid told a parliamentary committee Sunday night Egypt was trying to patch up differences between Jordan and the PLO. "We are still hopeful that Jordan and the PLO will succeed in finding a joint framework for the actual start of the peace process," Mr. Abdul Meguid said. Mr. Qasem's meeting with Mr. Mubarak was attended by Mr. Abdul Meguid and the Egyptian president's political adviser, Dr. Osama Al Baz. Mr. Qasem returned to Amman later on Monday.

PLO offices to continue to function in Jordan

By Lamis K. Andoul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian government has officially notified the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) that PLO offices will be allowed to continue to operate in Amman despite the termination of political coordination between the two sides, informed sources said Monday.

The sources said the Jordanian notification was conveyed during a meeting between Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and PLO Executive Committee member Abdul Razaq Al Yahya. "The PLO was told that the collapse of coordination between Jordan and the PLO will not affect the status of the organisation's offices in Jordan," the sources said. Sunday's meeting between Mr. Rifai and Mr. Yahya was the first since His Majesty King Hussein's announcement last Wednesday that Jordan was unable to continue its political coordination with the leadership of the PLO. PLO's presence in Jordan has increased since the convening of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Amman in November 1984. Since then the PNC moved its headquarters from Damascus to Amman and set up a number of subdivisions of its major departments here. Two of the PLO's major departments — the occupied Arab territories affairs department and the higher education affairs department — are based in Amman. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has an operating office in Amman, including a research section incorporated in a four-storey building at Jabal Al Nozha in north east Amman. Three PLO Executive Committee members, including Bishop Ella Khouri, Mohammad Milhem and Mr. Yahya, Arafat's adviser Hani Al Hassan and PLO Deputy Military Commander Khalil Al Wazir reside in Amman with their families. The main Palestinian publications, including a daily bulletin by the Palestinian News Agency (Wafa), continue to be issued in Amman.

TASS rejects new U.S. arms proposal

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet news agency TASS on Monday dismissed U.S. President Ronald Reagan's latest disarmament proposals as a propaganda stratagem designed to divert attention from the Jan. 15 initiative of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. In a report from Washington, TASS said that Mr. Reagan's new proposals, as quoted in the U.S. press, did no more than reiterate the United States' "non-constructive" stand on nuclear weapons. The U.S. proposals, in response to Mr. Gorbachev's programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, were being presented at the superpower arms talks in Geneva on Monday, according to officials from both sides. The Kremlin's chief spokesman, Leonid Zamyatin, said earlier that a copy was handed to the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow on Sunday. TASS said that despite taking almost six weeks to respond to the Gorbachev initiative, Washington had dealt with only one type of nuclear weapon — medium-range missiles. "Despite the significant amount of time the U.S. side spent on its reply, it is rather limited and does not compare in scope in any way with the comprehensive, all-embracing nuclear disarmament programme put forward by the Soviet Union," it said.

5 die, 12 hurt in E. Beirut car blast

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A car bomb containing an estimated 20 kilograms of TNT exploded near a supermarket in east Beirut on Monday, killing at least five civilians and wounding 12, as the capital was gripped by another spasm of violence, police reported. Police said the casualty toll from the explosion would have been far higher if several 82-mm mortar shells and anti-tank mines attached to the bomb had detonated. The blast, the latest in a string of bomb attacks in Beirut's mostly Christian sector in recent weeks, came as unidentified gunmen assassinated Issam Al Arab, a leftist militia leader, in mainly Muslim west Beirut. Mr. Arab, 42, was shot to death when the gunmen stormed his apartment, police reported. Authorities linked the slaying to Beirut's myriad factional blood feuds that have triggered a wave of lawlessness in the militia-ruled western half of the capital. Mr. Arab headed the Nasser Forces militia. It was active in the early days of Lebanon's 11-year-old civil war.

In east Beirut, rescuers battled through wreckage in driving rain in search of survivors of Monday's car bomb as ambulances rushed the casualties to hospital. Witnesses told Reuters quick action by a 15-year-old boy saved many lives. He saw smoke pouring from the car and shouted a warning to shoppers moments before the blast tore a one-metre deep crater in the road and sent steel fragments slicing through Salameh residential district. Hospital sources told Reuters an unidentified two-year-old boy was in critical condition with severe burns and many broken bones. At least 43 people have now died in a spate of bombings in east Beirut since a power struggle flared between Christian leaders last month. No-one has claimed responsibility for them. Christian militia chief Elie Hobeika signed a Syrian-backed peace accord with Lebanon's main leftist militias on Dec. 28 but was ousted two weeks later by opponents of the pact. President Amin Gemayel has refused to endorse the accord, which would give the Muslim majority more political power and cut the prerogatives of the Christian presidency. His opponents have pledged to oust the 44-year-old Maronite Christian, by force if necessary. Witnesses quoted by Reuters said a young man of about 18 parked a yellow, Japanese-made car near the PRIX Uniques Supermarket, speaking briefly in French to U.N. officials in an adjacent truck before getting into a second car driven by another youth. A few minutes later, the yellow car vanished in a blinding flash which engulfed the street and set several cars ablaze. The truck, belonging to the U.N. Truce Supervision Organisation, was badly damaged, but the witnesses said

Iraq reports naval attacks, 'inch-by-inch' advance on Fao

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's navy attacked two ships near Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal, a military spokesman said on Monday, as its ground forces advanced "inch-by-inch" on Iran's holdings the southern tip of the Fao Peninsula. The spokesman said the sea attacks were against two "very large naval targets," a term usually used to refer to oil tankers or other merchant ships. This marked a change of tactics by the Iraqi military, which has previously used missile-firing fighter-bombers for its frequent attacks on Gulf shipping.

Iraq claimed last week it had captured a radar post in the Fao Peninsula which Iraq had used to steer planes to the attack and predicted that Gulf shipping would be safe in the future. Tehran claimed on Monday it shot down an Iraqi helicopter which attacked a Cyprus-registered supertanker near Kharg. The use of a helicopter in this role was also thought to be a first for Iraq, analysts said.

Independent shipping sources were unable to confirm Monday night's naval attacks, but Iran said the 240,000-ton tanker hit on Monday sustained minor damage. Its name was not given. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported that the central column of a three-pronged counter-attack on Iranians who occupied the disputed oil port of Fao and its environs early in their two-week-old offensive "continued its advance to liberate territory."

Marcos, holed up with family, refuses to relinquish power

Rebels announce Aquino government

Washington urges 'peaceful transition'

MANILA (Agencies) — Defeating military forces supported by hundreds of thousands of people declared a new government on Monday, and President Ferdinand E. Marcos called on supporters from all across the islands to come to his palace with their guns to defend him. Hours after rebellious soldiers captured government broadcast stations and a helicopter fired a grenade into his palace, Mr. Marcos issued the call to civilian loyalists: "By all means, come over and we'll have a grand fire."

Mr. Marcos claimed two soldiers were killed in the rebel attack on the government Channel 4. Hospital authorities listed only one dead.

Four troops were wounded in the strike on the palace and four others at the broadcast complex. As 500,000 of Corazon Aquino's jubilant supporters cheered, chanted, and prayed in Manila streets, several hundred civilian supporters of Mr. Marcos gathered at a bridge near his palace in response to Mr. Marcos' call. "I am calling all my good friends to come to Malacanang (the presidential palace) and we will demonstrate people's power specially if they bring arms with them," Mr. Marcos said in a broadcast from his palace. The broadcast was carried by the private



Fidel Ramos
Channel 9 owned by a business associate.

Mr. Marcos, entrenched in Malacanang Palace, said his family was "cowering in terror" from the rebel forces. "I have no intention of giving up the presidency, the duly-elected presidency," he declared. Earlier, troops backing breakaway Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Deputy Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos seized the government TV station and Mrs. Aquino was declared head of a provisional government. Mrs. Aquino claims she was cheated of victory in the election three weeks ago by fraud, violence and intimidation by the Marcos camp — a claim supported by the local Roman Catholic church, and U.S. and other foreign observers.

Loyalists open fire on crowd

MANILA (R) — Government troops guarding the Malacanang Palace of President Ferdinand Marcos opened fire early Tuesday on a group of jeering demonstrators and eyewitnesses said several people were hit. Pools of blood and spent cartridges littered the street after the shooting which lasted for several minutes. The crowd of about 2,000 supporters of opposition leader Corazon Aquino fled in panic and several of them were trampled in the crush, witnesses said. Troops told reporters who were interviewing people at the scene to leave the area. At rebel headquarters in Camp Crame, 16 kilometres east of Malacanang, soldiers supporting Mrs. Aquino were on alert in anticipation of an attack by Marcos loyalists.

The United States, the Philippines' biggest ally, appears to have pulled the rug from under Mr. Marcos after supporting him throughout his 20 years in power. A White House statement released Monday said the U.S. was "deeply concerned" by the violence and the possibility of a "peaceful transition" to a new government. (Continued on page 3)

Reagan in dilemma, page 4

Tide turning against Iran as offensive enters 3rd week

By Barry Simpson
Reuters

BAHRAIN — Iran's dramatic offensive into southern Iraq enters its third week with the tide of battle apparently turning in Iraq's favour.

Intelligence reports indicate Iran has massed troops for a possible second offensive, but Tehran now says its objectives have been met.

With intense diplomatic efforts under way to end the fighting, Iran has said it is willing to discuss its position with Iraq's main Arab allies, who have been severely shaken by the Iranian thrust into Iraq's southern Fao peninsula.

But on the battlefield, Iraqi troops appear to be advancing again after two weeks of heavy fighting in which tens of thousands have been reported killed on both sides.

Iranian troops surged across the Shatt Al Arab waterway on the night of Feb. 9, flanking Iraqi defences marshalled on the port of Basra, Iraq's second city higher up the Shatt.

They quickly overran the disputed Iraqi oil port of Fao and fanned out across the peninsula, one thrust taking them to the Khawr Abd Allah Channel dividing Iraq from Kuwait.

Marshy terrain favoured Iran's light infantry, Iraqi armour getting bogged down in the mud, while bad weather deprived the Iraqis of the full benefit of their air superiority.

Iranian troops quickly captured some 300 square kilometres around Fao, their biggest success of the five-year-old war, exposing holes in Iraqi defences considered impenetrable.

There's now a question mark over Iraq's ability to use its military machine that wasn't there before, one diplomat in Kuwait said, adding: "Even if Iraq's defences remain sound, and I think they are, this has prompted a rethink among outsiders."

Iraqi commanders last week reported only slow progress in a three-pronged counter-attack and even conceded reverses. But in the past two days they have again reported gains and one commander said Fao would be retaken within a week.

Accurate assessment of the battle lines is difficult in the light of conflicting claims by both sides aimed more at bolstering domestic morale than enlightening the outside world.

But Reuters Correspondent Subhy Haddad, with Iraqi troops on the coast road to Fao late last week, saw dozens of Iranian dead littering the area, clearly indicating an Iraqi advance.

He reported from the front that

Iraqi troops in the central sector were only some five kilometres from Fao's outskirts, and estimated the Iranians now held just 100 square kilometres of the peninsula.

Tehran-based Reuters correspondent Hugh Pope, at the front last Wednesday, reported intensive Iraqi air raids, with seven on Fao itself during the four hours he was in the town.

Military analysts predicted early in the fighting that Iran's main problems would be keeping its troops reinforced and supplied across the Shatt, and coping with Iraq's air power.

The Iraqis have some 500 fighters and bombers, as well as 100 combat helicopters, Iran says it has downed 56 Iraqi planes since the offensive began, but Iraq admits to losing only six.

Intelligence reports say Iran has massed tens of thousands of troops on the edge of the Hawfah Marshes north of Basra for a second offensive to divert Iraqi resources from the south.

Military analysts question whether it has the logistical ability to sustain a second big attack, however, and Tehran has already indicated the latest fighting may be drawing to an end.

Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, influential speaker of Iran's parliament said last Friday the aims of the Fao offensive had been met,

and the time had come to discuss Iran's position and, importantly, oil issues with Iraq's main allies.

Diplomats believe Iraqi success in halting Iranian oil exports was a major factor in Tehran's decision to launch the attack. Oil industry sources say Iran's oil shipments have been sharply curtailed in recent weeks by Iraqi air raids on its Kharg Island oil terminal, onshore oil facilities and tankers.

Iran, heavily dependent on oil income, has also been hard hit by the halving of world oil prices this year, for which it blames higher output by Iraq's allies Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Mr. Rafsanjani did not spell out the military objectives of the offensive. But one possible aim in which it has succeeded is in rattling Kuwait, taking the war right to its doorstep.

Kuwait's Bubiyan Island in the north west Gulf lies only a few kilometres from the front across the Khawr, and it rushed anti-aircraft defences and infantry to the island.

"At the official level there's obviously a great deal of concern," a diplomat in Kuwait said. "But for the man in the street it's business as usual."

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NEWS ANALYSIS

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because when they come back they will no longer be a part of the society in which they were born," he added.

The church leaders agreed with the commander that SPLA fighters could often be ill-disciplined, but disputed his claim that activities such as cattle-rustling had lost them the support of the local inhabitants.

"As far as I know people speak well of the SPLA. The idea seems to be well appreciated by the people," said Vincent Mojok, Catholic Bishop of Upper Nile.

Prominent citizens of Malakal told reporters the behaviour of the army itself was sometimes suspect and the people often blamed Khartoum for a long blockade during which air force planes brought supplies for the troops but not for the locals.

Soldiers returning from a military expedition to the town of Nasser on the Sobat River last year sold grain in Malakal market

at over six times the normal price, they said.

Gen. Zein Al Abidin said the army's objectives in the war were to protect life and property, suggesting the army has no ambitions to settle the war by military means.

Military attaches in Khartoum doubt either side can force a conclusion to the conflict, since the rebels have consistently failed to capture towns and the army does not have the will or the means to sweep the insurgents out of the countryside.

The Khartoum government also says it favours a political solution and has concentrated, through intermediaries, on trying to bring Col. Garang into direct peace talks.

The Ethiopian-backed SPLA leadership, which spends much of its time in Addis Ababa, has insisted on two preconditions for talking — an end to the state of emergency in Sudan and the full repeal of Sharia (Islamic Law) imposed by Numeiri, who was ousted in a coup last April.

Col. Garang also objects to the ruling military council in Khartoum but it is not clear how his position will change after elections in April which should bring in a civilian government.

Gen. Zein Al Abidin said the SPLA's main aim at present was to obstruct the elections. Khartoum politicians say a constituent assembly without southern members would deepen the divide between north and south.

5 French nationals detained in Tehran

TEHRAN (R) — Five French nationals, including the third secretary at the French embassy, were detained in Tehran Monday, a senior French official said.

"No reasons have been given for the arrests," he said.

The moves follow the expulsion of four Iranians from France in connection with a recent wave of bombings in Paris.

Third Secretary Philippe Tissot was taken from his car while carrying the embassy's diplomatic bag, the French official said. The others held were engineers Jean-Pierre Decours, Gilles Picot, Jean-Pierre Boidot and his wife Francoise.

Decours and the Boidots were detained at about midnight at their home, the official said. The other two were held Monday morning.

The French charge d'affaires in Tehran, Pierre La France, was summoned to the Iranian Foreign Ministry after the expulsions and told that the French government would be responsible for any "undesirable consequences."

Mubarak meets U.S. senator

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak met Monday with U.S. Sen. Charles Mathias, who is winding up in Egypt a Middle East fact-finding tour.

"We covered everything of importance between our two countries," the Maryland Republican told reporters.

He said the meeting was marked by "mutual understanding" but refused to give details.

U.S. embassy spokesman Edward Bernier said Sen. Mathias was on a "regional fact-finding tour" in his capacity as chairman of the International Economic Policy Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Bernier said Cairo was the last stop in Sen. Mathias' itinerary before his return home.

Autopsy shows Israeli gunfire killed Turkish ship captain

TEL AVIV (R) — An autopsy on the body of a Turkish fishing boat captain whose vessel was intercepted by the Israeli navy showed he was killed by Israeli gunfire, an Israeli official said Monday.

He said shots were fired at the Larios 11 on Feb. 11 off occupied Gaza because it was suspected of involvement in guerrilla activity.

The autopsy revealed the captain was killed by bullets from an M-16 semi-automatic rifle used by the Israeli gunners when they seized the boat with seven other Turkish and one Palestinian on board, the official said.

Lebanese villagers complain of torture, looting in Israeli sweep

SHAQRA, Lebanon (R) — Shopkeeper Hassan Dib traced the red wheel where he said pro-Israeli gunmen tightened a rope round his neck as they interrogated him on the whereabouts of two captured Israelis.

"They never gave me a chance to answer, just punched me each time I tried to open my mouth," he told reporters.

Dib, 33, said Israeli troops and their Lebanese militia allies turned Shaqra's village school into a makeshift prison, using chair legs, heated metal objects, cigarettes, electric wires and a steel compass to mete out physical abuse.

Shaqra was one of 19 South Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim villages searched by 1,500 Israeli troops during a six-day manhunt north of the border strip Israel has proclaimed a "security zone."

They withdrew Sunday, after failing to find the two men captured inside the zone by guerrillas of the radical pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) eight days ago.

Dried blood stained desks and tiles in a classroom littered with smashed furniture and cans of food with Hebrew markings.

Angry villagers showed how a steel-tipped blackboard compass had been thrust into the ear of one of 60 people still being held by the Israelis. "They are animals," one shouted.

Fatimeh Wainzali said she and her daughter Selam, 18, had been given electric shocks during interrogation. "They asked me who in Shaqra is with Hizbollah and who is with Amal (the main Shi'ite militia)," she said.

Villagers held up a bloodied black canvas bag they said was used as a hood during interrogations.

Dib said five of the 60 detained villagers were women. Seven other women were taken to hospital in shock. "They were hysterical, near collapse," said a nurse in Tibnine hospital.

Villagers in Shaqra and other nearby hamlets, said the Israelis, militiamen of the Israeli-armed "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) and gunmen hired by Israel's Shin Beth Security Agency had systematically looted and vandalised property.

In Majdel Sehn, widow Afaf Yassin cradled her two children on the floor of her ransacked home. A wall was missing, blown away by what village headman Haidar Zahwa said was Israeli mine.

"They didn't leave a single house intact," villagers in Khirbet Sehn complained, showing broken doorframes, upturned furniture and wrecked kitchens.

"They took my eldest son, snatched my gold bracelets and shot at my cows," fumed Mariam Majed, 40, a mother-of-eight.

Hussein Salameh, a 70-year-old construction worker, pointed to a blood-spattered step in a narrow alley where he said the Israelis had beaten up a man they found hiding.

"They stole 10,000 Lebanese pounds (\$500) that my sons sent me from Kuwait to finish building a house," he said.

Medical supplies trader Mahmoud Nouredine said the SLA had robbed him of 39,000 pounds (\$2,000). "Who will compensate us? (Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah) Khomeini? (Amal chief Nabih) Berri?" he asked.

The wife of an aged deaf man named Youssef Harb wept as she showed the charred remnants of her house and belongings. "There is nothing left, nothing," she moaned.

At one point, bitterness flared into anger against Lebanese commanders who arrived to inspect the village. A plump young man with a pistol on his belt

outraged an anti-Israel Shi'ite religious leader was almost lynched by the crowd.

A Lebanese policeman and a French photographer shielded the gunman from the mob as a villager attacked him with a crowbar. "We don't want any guns here. If they want to fight Israel, let them go to the border," one man screamed.

"All the heroes ran away before the Israelis came, leaving us to be humiliated. Where were they when we were kneeling on the ground?" he demanded.

Men said Israelis fired over their heads as they were held with no food or water in the schoolyard for 12 hours a day.

"They told us this would happen again unless we made sure guerrillas never came back here to attack them," Salameh said. "If they (the Israelis) cannot defend themselves, why make us suffer? They want us to be their policemen here."

But a funeral for a slain Amal commando in nearby Sultaniyeh, mourners swore to step up resistance to Israel.

"Next time, I will tie explosives to my body and hurl myself at an Israeli tank," declared an excited fighter as his comrades bore the body of Hassan Khalaf, 24, wrapped in a green sheet, to a grassy cemetery outside the village.

In the local mosque, shredded Korans and other religious books lay below bullet holes peppering the wall. Nearby, a mass of rubble and shrapnel showed where the Israelis blew up a house after finding a cache of 50 Katyusha rockets.

Israel's latest sweep has sharpened the dilemma for Shi'ite civilians over the struggle to liberate Lebanese territory.

"Our town is in despair. People want to live. They have no way to prevent the resistance. Anyway, Amal fighters here had guns only to protect the village," said Hassan Dib.

Kuwait celebrates independence today

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait celebrates 25 years of independence from Britain Tuesday on full military alert amid concern it could get dragged into the Gulf War on its doorstep.

"Land, air and naval forces are on full alert," the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said Monday, reporting an interview with Armed Forces Chief of Staff Abdullah Farraj Al Ghamin.

"At the official level there's obviously a great deal of concern" about the war, says a Western diplomat, noting Kuwait and other Gulf states have from the outset cited it as a major security worry.

Despite the concern, military bands, cadets and schoolchildren are expected to march in parades Tuesday through the capital, which at night resembles a giant fairground lit up with millions of lights of different colours.

Under an amnesty decree 527 prisoners were being freed Monday, and 695 other detainees will have their sentences cut. An unspecified number of Kuwaiti conscripts and regular servicemen detained on military charges will also be released.

The National Day holiday Tuesday climaxes a month-long festival of cultural fetes and exhibitions marking Kuwait's progress since independence. But worry about the war remains.

Kuwait Sunday protested to Iran over alleged harassment last Saturday of one of its naval vessels by two Iranian air force helicopters in Kuwaiti territorial waters.

The incident took place east of Kubbah Island, 20 miles east of the mainland and 60 miles south of Fao peninsula, where Iranian forces are entrenched close to Kuwait's north-eastern border following their latest offensive.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Basbarani said Sunday Iran did not seek to expand the 5½-year-old war beyond Iraq. But Iran has often threatened to punish states on the west side of the Gulf for supporting Iraq in the war, and Kuwait, which diplomats estimate has given Baghdad some \$10 billion in aid, has shown signs it takes the threats seriously.

"If Iran chooses to be an enemy, then we are ready to face this option," Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah said in remarks published Sunday by Al Watan

and Al Anba newspapers.

"The sons and men of Kuwait entrenched along the borders have direct orders to shoot anyone who tries to wage aggression on Kuwait," he warned.

Iran's parliamentary speaker, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, last Friday urged Gulf states to start talking with Tehran about grievances it had.

He mentioned their backing of Baghdad, and specifically listed supplies to Iraq through other Arab states. Kuwait acts as a vital conduit for shipments of Soviet war material sent to Iraq, diplomats say.

In apparent reprisal for Kuwait's support of Baghdad, Iran bombed an oil gathering station at Umm Al-Aish in the emirate's northern desert in 1981.

Kuwait has jailed 17 people, mainly pro-Iranian Shi'ites, for bombings at the U.S. and French embassies and several state buildings in December 1983, apparently to protest its support for Iraq in the war.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah has said Iran was connected with the blasts, in which six people died.

Sudanese rebels change tactics to break stalemate

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

MALAKAL, Sudan — Rebel guerrillas in southern Sudan are changing their tactics, switching to mass attacks to try to break the stalemate in their bush war.

The military commander of the troubled Upper Nile area said the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) had taken to launching mass attacks on isolated garrisons instead of spreading its forces thin in classic guerrilla style.

"Now they are using two or three thousand men to attack an army company of 200. This is not what is usually meant by a guerrilla war," Maj. Gen. Mohammed Zein Al Abidin told reporters in Malakal, 690 kilometres south of Khartoum.

The SPLA, fighting to replace the military government in Khartoum, has also appointed a chief of staff, apparently to give its line of command a more conventional structure.

The general said the army had responded to guerrilla attacks by moving away from mechanised columns and towards foot patrols to reduce casualties from SPLA ambushes.

The southern war broke out in May 1983 when SPLA leader Col. John Garang and his army unit defected into the bush in reaction to Khartoum's policy towards the south.

Jaafar Numeiri, the Sudanese president, had unilaterally abrogated a 1972 agreement which

ended an earlier 17-year civil war by giving autonomy to the southern region.

Gen. Zein Al Abidin said defections from army ranks, so far the main source of SPLA recruits, had begun to fall off as the war changed increasingly into a tribal conflict.

Khartoum has portrayed the SPLA as dominated by the powerful cattle-herding Dinka, in part to discourage recruits from other southern tribes which share the same grievances against the Arab north but fear excessive Dinka influence.

The SPLA projects itself as a national movement and church leaders in Malakal said many young men in the town, where most people belong to the Shilluk tribe, were keen to join if they could make their way to its training camps in the Ethiopian-Sudanese border area.

Gen. Zein Al Abidin said the army estimated the rebels' nominal strength at 23,000 men but reckoned only half were fully committed to the SPLA cause.

In attacks on government garrisons in the western Upper Nile towns of Liap and Adok, many inexperienced youngsters had broken ranks and wandered back to their home areas, he said.

The general said another new development was the SPLA sending 300 boys between 12 and 15 years old for training in a country outside Africa or Europe which he did not name.

"This is a very serious matter,



because when they come back they will no longer be a part of the society in which they were born," he added.

The church leaders agreed with the commander that SPLA fighters could often be ill-disciplined, but disputed his claim that activities such as cattle-rustling had lost them the support of the local inhabitants.

"As far as I know people speak well of the SPLA. The idea seems to be well appreciated by the people," said Vincent Mojok, Catholic Bishop of Upper Nile.

Prominent citizens of Malakal told reporters the behaviour of the army itself was sometimes suspect and the people often blamed Khartoum for a long blockade during which air force planes brought supplies for the troops but not for the locals.

Soldiers returning from a military expedition to the town of Nasser on the Sobat River last year sold grain in Malakal market

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
MAIN CHANNEL	
16:00	Koran
16:30	Children's Cartoons
16:30	Give Me A Brake
17:45	Programme on Islam and development
18:30	Arabic Series
19:20	A Special programme on Kuwait
20:00	News in Arabic
20:35	Arabic Series
21:20	Tomorrow's Arabic
21:25	Studio '86
23:00	News Summary in Arabic
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
19:00	Histoire secrète du petrole
19:15	News in French
19:30	Berguvel et fils
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	That's My Boy
21:00	Towards 2000
21:30	A Fortunate Life
22:00	News in English
22:30	Murder, She Wrote
RADIO JORDAN	
835 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW: 77411-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	News Desk
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:45	Morning Show Cont.
11:00	Pop Session Cont.
12:00	News Summary
12:45	Pop Session Cont.
13:00	News Summary
13:45	News Bulletin
14:00	Country Music
14:15	Country Music
14:30	Country Music
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24:00	Country Music

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

Y.W.M.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 637111
University of Jordan Library 843555

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition by Hannan Agha at the Gallery of the Housing Bank complex (until March 6)
- * An art exhibition by Youssef Badawi at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Feb. 28)
- * An exhibition of plastic arts at Yarmouk University (until Feb. 27)
- * An art exhibition by Sa'ad Nuseibeh at the Jordan National Gallery (until March 2)
- * Engineering week at the Faculty of Engineering University of Jordan.
- * French exhibition entitled "Les cinéastes Français" at the French Cultural Centre (until Feb. 27)
- * An exhibition of selected works by Jordanian and Foreign Contemporary artists at the Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, First Circle (until March 4-11).

NEWS PROGRAMME

- * The ABC News at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

FILMS

- * Feature film for children entitled "Robin Hood Junior" at 5:00 p.m. at the British Council.
- * "Providence" at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 664371
American Cultural Library 641520
British Council 636147-8
French Cultural Centre 637005
Goethe Institute 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203
Cultural Centre 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre 639777
Days Arts Centre 665195
Hussein Youth City 647181/86
Y.W.C.A. 641783

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century Orientalist artists. Mutazzah, Jabal Lubdah. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.
Museum of Military (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 666240.
Royal Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 637169.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 624590
Church of the Assumption (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubdah, 637440.
De la Seale Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 678966.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 717331.

PRAYER TIMES

04:47
05:09 (Sunrise)
11:29 Dhuhr
12:46 'Asr
17:20 Maghrib
18:52

Crowds throng Royal Court to express public support for King



His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Zaid

Rifal listen to speeches of support delivered by representatives at the Royal Court (Petra photo)

(Continued from page 1)

ional and historic speech and renewed their loyalty to the throne. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and a number of senior officials.

King Hussein also received a delegation representing the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFJTU) who expressed their absolute support for the King's historic and comprehensive speech. They also voiced their full confidence in King Hussein's wise and courageous leadership.

GFJTU Central Council Chairman Abdul Halim Khaddam said that national unity which has unified Palestinian and Jordanian peoples is an eternal unity and a bond of blood, faith, goals, destiny, land and honour.

Mr. Khaddam called on all Arab leaderships to unify their stands and to work towards achieving coordination and solidarity to fend off all dangers threatening the future of the Arab nation and its central cause, the Palestine

question.

King Hussein thanked the union and said the Palestine question is a just and sacred cause and warrants that we all make every possible effort to find a solution to it. To live up to the level of responsibilities and to perform our duties, it is imperative that we involve all people in finding the suitable situation where we will be able to achieve our common objectives, the King said.

Cables

The Royal Court also announced further cables of support for King Hussein. The Royal Court said that the cables voiced renewed allegiance to King Hussein from different sectors of the public. Among those sending cables were representatives of various tribes from towns in the East and West Banks, youth and sports clubs in the country, charitable societies, employees in government departments, staff of secondary schools, village councils as well as nobles and dignitaries.



Crowds of people representing citizens in Balqa and Tafilah Governorates, tribes and organisations gathered in the grounds of the Royal Court to express support to His Majesty King Hussein (Petra photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Ayoub family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed bin Zaid to convey his condolences to the Ayoub family on the death of Ya'qoub Salih Ibrahim Ayoub.

Khayyat chairs council meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Monday presided over a meeting for the Preaching and Guidance Council to discuss methods to be followed by the council. During the meeting, Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Asad was elected as the council's vice president, while Director of Preaching and Guidance Sheikh Ahmad Hattayel was elected moderator.

Ministry to issue Armed Forces stamps

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Communications has decided to issue commemorative stamps to mark the 30th anniversary of the Arabisation of the Jordanian Armed Forces. A ministry spokesman said the postage stamps will be in denominations of 40, 60, and 100 fils.

Jordan to attend broadcasting talks

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan is to take part in a special Arab seminar on the exchange of news and programmes among Arab television and radio stations via the Arab satellite. The seminar, which will open in Tunis, on Thursday has been organised by the Arab Broadcasting Union. Participants will evaluate the exchange of news and programmes which has been taking place among Arab stations since last October and will also draw up a future plan to maximise the Arab network.

Badran becomes member of campus board

AMMAN (Petra) — Dr. Ibrahim Badran, under secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, has been appointed a member of the board of the University of Jordan, Faculty of Agriculture. Dr. Badran returned to Amman Monday after representing Jordan at a general meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which was held in Vienna.

UAU secretary leaves for Paris

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Union of Arab Universities (UAU) Mohammad Faraj Al Dughaim Monday left for Paris to take part in a three-day meeting of the 44th session of the International Universities Union's (IUU) Executive Board. The board will elect a secretary general for the union and will discuss the union's plan of action for the next two years and means of bolstering cooperation among the world universities.

Statement highlights danger of rising food imports in Arab countries

AMMAN (J.T.) — A general statement on the outcome of a seminar on food security in the Arab World, which was held in Amman on Feb. 8 and Feb. 9, says that the Arab World annually imports nearly \$25 billion worth of food supplies from foreign countries and that this figure is likely to double by the end of the present century.

The statement, issued by the Arab Thought Forum which organised the seminar, said if Arab countries invested \$25 billion in agricultural projects over several years, they would avoid the prospect of facing food shortages by the year 2000.

The statement said this was a unanimous resolution by delegates who debated the present food situation in the Arab countries and that it also served as a warning to Arab governments and planners concerned about the well-being of their nations. Continued dependence on foreign nations for food supplies is a clear threat not only to the peoples of the Arab countries, but also to their present regimes, the statement said.

The seminar, which was opened by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, urged all Arab states to carry out integrated plans to confront the looming danger. It

called on governments to give special attention to increasing wheat production, because of its strategic value.

The statement projected the views of the participants who called for removing restrictions on the exchange of food products among Arab countries and imposing measures to give these products protection against foreign competition. The participants noted that food supplies exchanged among Arab states form only 10 per cent of their total trade figure and said that political differences among Arab countries should not affect their inter-cooperation in food production.

Nuseibeh captures dramatic beauty of a disappearing lifestyle in Wadi Rum

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian bedouin, with his fabled hospitality and courage and his austere and remote way of life have attracted photographers from all over the world, but none have ever caught his image so potently, so honestly and certainly not so magnificently as Said Hisham Nuseibeh, whose black and white photographs of the Huweitat of Wadi Rum are on show at the Jordan National Gallery this week.

The secret of Nuseibeh's success must lie in the fact that for 15 months the photographer lived with his subjects, not as an observer, but as one of them. By working as he says "from dawn to dusk as a member of the family — carrying water, collecting wood and mountain grasses, migrating, herding camels, cooking and making coffee..." he came to know them as few other outsiders have. Because of this he was able to take photographs that let us see these people as we have never seen them before but are also of an indelible and profound beauty.

It is difficult to say which image inspires the most — perhaps it is "Sadah," the saluki, graceful and alert, quietly aware, part of a landscape that takes one's breath away. Although this photograph is not perhaps the best and certainly not the most dramatic — that award goes to "Abraham's Feast of Sacrifice" a shocking yet strangely aesthetic image of a camel being slaughtered — "Sadah" however epitomises Nuseibeh's work. For it catches a stillness, a feeling of awe and wonder, of one's own insignificance, that immense landscape inevitably inspires. It is an image that takes you out of yourself and makes you part of it and in so doing it gives you time, as being in Wadi Rum must do, to reflect, to pause and reassess. In short, it is full of the "atmosphere, mood and feeling" that Nuseibeh tries to imbue in all his work.

"My artistic training was primarily in poetry," Nuseibeh says, "and as a lyric uses language to conjure up feelings, so I try to use perspective, composition and light in my photography to effectively give the viewer a corresponding feeling and appreciation of the scene. These images, therefore, are not just photographs of daily life or a mere recording of an ancient and fast disappearing way of living, but expressions of atmosphere, mood and feeling."

Sense of scale

The sense of scale caught in "Sadah" is a recurring theme in Nuseibeh's work. It is there in the two images entitled "The Monumental Nature of God" where the sheer side of the rock cliff rises impenetrably, its swirling strata inhabited by a flock of tiny goats, their size, like everything in those surroundings, diminished to nothing. It's there again in "Khadra

with her flock at the trough," the subject of the title being barely visible, seen only as tiny dots on a view that tumbles over the edge of a peak to spill out across the desert for miles and miles and miles. "Teapot, Winter Morning" and "Mist and Root," which catch the rare moments when the mountains are shrouded in cloud, are images which tend to soften the vastness and although the enveloping mist adds a touch of mystery, it also adds a touch of comfort.

Other wonderful images have to be the remarkable portraits of Ali Laqay and Haj Atali bin Aeed Az Zalazbi and of the hunting party and their trophy illuminated by Nuseibeh's only source of light, cat headlights, in "Game after the Hunt" and many, many more.

Completing the collection, although I would have been happy with a whole exhibit about the Huweitat, are a small group of photographs depicting the Napa Valley in America where Nuseibeh visited his grandmother as a child. Some of these like "Palisades," a group of rocks pointing accusingly skywards and "Calistoga Hamlet," where the neat rows of the vines stretch endlessly across the valley floor, reflect on a small scale the landscape of Wadi Rum, while his detailed views of old doors through whose missing boards are glimpses of a lush paradise beyond, remind one strongly of the doors Nuseibeh photographed in the home of his ancestors, Jerusalem.

The photographs of Jerusalem, like the whole collection, are of wonderful quality in terms of clarity, composition and lighting and among them are some unforgettable images. There is for example "Abu Ali and son" at work in their bakery and the four street cleaners who, with the corner of the road, make an intriguing composition. And finally there is "Arch and Stairs," a marvellous patchwork of neat and far, of heights and levels, of detail and distance.

There are two images however in this well-hung grouping, that for me at least are overworked and tired. The Dome of the Rock has been taken so many times and in so many different ways that it is extremely difficult to find something new to say about it and even Nuseibeh's perfect rendition which sets the mosque with long slanting shadows in its wider environment, fails to hold attention. It has come rightly or not to represent Jerusalem, as children behind barbed wire have come to symbolise the plight of the West Bank and both of them have unfortunately lost their power to inspire or shock.

The exhibition however remains a remarkable achievement; the images Nuseibeh has given us being tantalising, fascinating and enduring, their quality and intensity of feeling making him a photographer who ranks among the best. The exhibition runs until March 2.

Jordan, Germany discuss Zarqa River Basin programme

AMMAN (Petra) — West Germany and Jordan Monday held talks on the implementation of an integrated project for the development of the Zarqa River Basin to increase agricultural production.

A specialised West German team met at the Ministry of Agriculture with its under secretary, Dr. Salem Al Lawzi, to discuss the project that will be carried out between 1986 and 1993. They also discussed West German assistance which will be extended to Jordan to enable the programme to be carried out.

Under an agreement signed by the two sides in 1982, West Germany extended technical assistance to Jordan to help the Kingdom implement initial pilot schemes at Mastabah, near Jerash, and Hamid near Maifraq. A ministry spokesman said preliminary work was carried out in three stages between 1982 and 1985, and that work on an integrated project in the two areas will be completed by the end of 1993.

NRA participates in seminar on Arab water resources

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has taken part in a seminar on Arab water resources and their exploitation which was organised by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development and held in Kuwait.

Mr. Bader Hizzallah, director of the Water Resources Development Department at the Natural Resources Authority, attended the meeting and said that participants emphasised the importance of ensuring Arab water security to guarantee sufficient water supplies to urban and rural regions and also for irrigation and industrial purposes. He said that the seminar, which ended on Feb. 20, called on Arab countries to work out a pan-Arab water strategy and to issue legislation aimed at developing water resources in the Arab World due to the importance of water in social and economic development.

The seminar, he said, stressed the importance for introducing a pan-Arab network that would assess and provide information on water resources. The seminar also called for more attention to the

control of environmental pollution and safeguarding water resources. Mr. Hizzallah added.

He went on to say that the seminar called for developing programmes which offer training to personnel employed in water projects to enable them to make better use of available water resources. The participants urged Arab countries to implement joint projects in water-related affairs and to increase their cooperation with various international organisations and agencies with the purpose of gaining expertise and experience in handling water resources. Mr. Hizzallah added.

Among the recommendations, he continued, was a call on Arab countries to help the Palestinian people to maintain control over their natural resources in the occupied Arab territories and to denounce Israel's seizure of Arab water sources.

The four-day seminar, Mr. Hizzallah concluded, discussed 30 working papers including one submitted by the Jordanian delegation which dealt with traditional and non-traditional water resources.

5 dead, 12 hurt in east Beirut car blast

(Continued from page 1)

the U.N. observers, all French, escaped unhurt.

Troops and heavily-armed militiamen quickly ringed the area as armoured personnel carriers bristling with machine-guns stood guard at a nearby crossroads.

Two middle-aged women were sitting in the cash booth of the supermarket building on the second floor when the bomb exploded.

"We were nearly blown off our seats by the force of the blast," said one of the women who refused to give their names. "Everyone was screaming all around us. We're glad to be alive."

Troops detained a teenage couple, a cross-eyed youth with a scar on his left cheek and an auburn-haired girl.

Both were bundled into a car and driven off to an unknown location, their heads lowered. Troops

declined to say why they had detained the pair.

The mid-morning car bombing and assassination followed night-long street battles between Lebanese Communist militiamen and Shi'ite fighters who confronted Israel's latest sweep in South Lebanon.

The fighting was between the black-clad militiamen of the radical Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God), and the Moscow-oriented Communist Party.

Police reported one Hizbollah fighter was killed in the fighting with 106mm guns, rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine-guns in the densely populated Museibeh district.

The Iranian embassy was hit by five grenades, damaging the doors and shattering windows. Charge d'Affaires Mahmoud Nourani told reporters.

Five apartment buildings and scores of cars were heavily damaged, police said.

The Communists have been at

odds with Shi'ite militias for weeks. The Shi'ites had cracked down on Communist attempts to move into predominantly Shi'ite South Lebanon.

Tension has been building up since Khalil Naous, a leading member of the Communist Party's central committee, was assassinated in west Beirut last week.

The clashes erupted after Israel called off a six-day search north of its self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon for two soldiers captured by the Islamic Resistance Front.

Hizbollah controls the Islamic Resistance Front.

As Monday's clashes subsided, Communist sources quoted by Reuters said the bullet-riddled body of a Communist politburo member was found.

They said the body of Suhail Tawileh, 46, was found near Beirut's "green line" battlefield. He was kidnapped from his home Sunday night.

Marcos refuses to relinquish power

(Continued from page 1)

eased by the embassy in Manila said the United States "has heard disturbing reports of a possible attack by forces loyal to General (Fabian) Ver, former forces chief of staff, against elements of the forces who have given support to General Ramos and Minister Earlie."

"We urge those contemplating such actions to stop."

"Attempts to prolong the life of the present government by violence are futile. A solution can only be achieved through a peaceful transition to a new government," the embassy said.

In a startling weekend, Mr. Enrile and Gen. Ramos rebelled against Mr. Marcos, claiming support of several thousand soldiers, and declaring themselves loyal to Mrs. Aquino.

Their statements broadcast over sympathetic radio and television were made in the name of "people's power" — a catchword for Aquino supporters.

At press conferences and in statements, Mr. Marcos has accused Mr. Enrile and Gen. Ramos of rebellion and treachery.

Mr. Marcos has declared a state of emergency and announced a curfew between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., although it was not clear how or by whom it would be enforced.

His wife Imelda, daughters Imee and Irene and their husbands and children, appeared with

Mr. Marcos at a news conference on Monday, clearly to disprove reports that they had fled the country.

They also appeared on television. The 68-year-old president was holding a copy of Monday's edition of the pro-government Daily Express newspaper, again to show that he and his family were still in the country.

He said he intended to go ahead with his official inauguration on Tuesday and stated: "We have no intention of going abroad. We have no intention of resigning."

At a news conference Monday morning, four senior generals were with Mr. Marcos, including Gen. Ver, a cousin and close confidant.

Evidently to show he was still in command, Mr. Marcos insisted in an exchange with Gen. Ver that forces loyal to him should not use heavy artillery, aircraft, mortars and tanks to dislodge the rebels or disperse crowds gathering around the rebel base at Camp Crame, headquarters of the Ramos-

commanded paramilitary constabulary.

Gen. Ver insisted that he be allowed to unleash all the forces at his command, including F-5 fighters, who were "ready to strike at any time. We may have no option but to do so."

But after an exchange with Mr. Marcos, who counselled restraint, Gen. Ver said: "I will obey your orders, Sir."

The politically powerful and influential Imelda Marcos, who holds government posts, told reporters before the news conference: "This is so lamentable."

Asked if they intended to leave the country, she shrugged and said: "I am only a housewife."

The streets of Manila were filled with cheering, chanting, praying opposition supporters.

In major provincial cities, troops apparently were confined to barracks and seemed to be keeping a low profile as attention was focused on the events unfolding in Manila.

IN MOURNING

The Halaby, Atalla & Kamar families grieve the loss of their beloved Sultaneh S. Halaby, who was a pioneer in educating several generations in Palestine & Jordan, and who was also founder of the first bookshop in Amman.



Magnificent Force — street dances for a good cause

Breakdancing to raise funds for cancer centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan National Cancer Society and the American Cultural Centre will present Magnificent Force, a six-member breakdance group, to perform in Jordan for the benefit of the Amal Cancer Centre construction fund, according to a press release issued by the American Centre.

The group will perform at the Palace of Culture on Sunday, March 2, and Monday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m. They will also perform at Yarmouk University on Tuesday, March 4, at 4:00 p.m. and at the Holiday Inn, Amman on Thursday, March 6, at 7:00 p.m. The group includes a graffiti artist who will be demonstrating this genre of art, the release said.

Breakdancing is a mixture of

modern dance, karate and gymnastics. It originated in New York in the mid-1970's. Sometimes known as "hip-hop," breakdancing began when street gangs began to dance instead of fight to settle arguments. Influenced by Oriental martial arts films, the gangs began to use the movements from the films in a dance-like way when confronting each other on the street. Gradually, a new form of dancing replaced the previous fighting. The dancers made up chants as they danced and music was added from battery-powered stereos. Breakdancing was thus born.

Magnificent Force has appeared in numerous films, including Beat Street.



A teapot on a fire in Wadi Rum with the mountains shrouded in cloud — photo by Said Hisham Nuseibeh



Moment of truth for Marcos

AND SO the decisive moment has come for Ferdinand Marcos who on Monday appeared to be fighting tooth and nail to retain the guardianship of his presidential palace. Sounds familiar enough the way the tables were turned against the dictator of the Philippines. Doesn't it? The defence minister who served him for 20 years and a senior army officer, whom Marcos tried to appease by offering the supreme post in the army, are the ones who staged the slow-motion coup that gathered pace in a matter of hours and threatened to engulf the presidential palace itself. Yesterday the world was expecting to hear where Marcos' plane had landed after fleeing the country. But this did not happen. Not surprising since Marcos has so ruthlessly ruled for over 20 years and he would not be expected to give up power so easily. Apparently, Marcos has a serious problem understanding the depth of his arrogance. His insistence that he would not quit office to make room for those whom people of the Philippines want to be governed by bears evidence to the workings of a mind which is not altogether healthy. Add to all that, Marcos' call for his armed supporters to defend his palace, and the question becomes one of what the man really wants. Destroy his country and the people? Perhaps that is what he wants, basing his thinking on that old saying: "No-one should enjoy what I had to part with."

Regardless of who emerges with power in the Filipino tug-of-war, one thing is clear: Marcos has no political future. He has overdrawn his reserves of political capital and all guarantors have quit the game. The most concrete evidence of Marcos' isolation in the international world of diplomacy came when he searched his mailbox and found only a single message of congratulations — a Soviet message the avowed anti-Communist could have done without. The field may be half open to Marcos. But he would be wiser to accept the Spanish offer of asylum before Madrid changes its mind about offering it to him.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Cohesion of Jordanian family

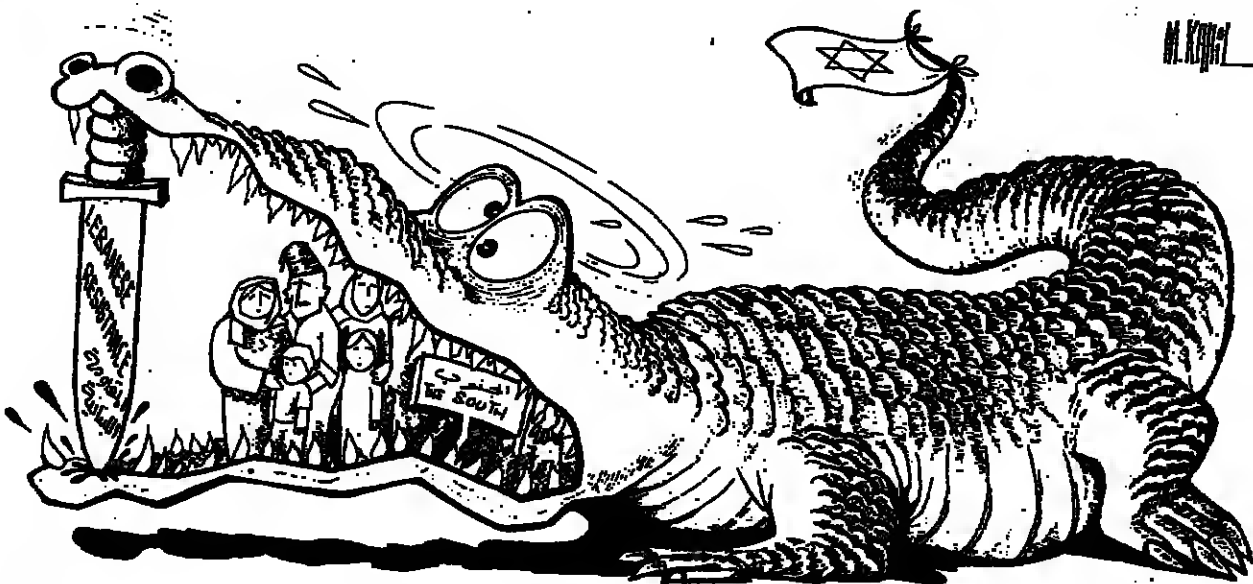
A statement issued by the Upper House of Parliament and the cables of support for the King which came from various sectors of the public reflect the close cohesion between the monarch and the people. The house's statement expressed its members' total support for the King who has been pursuing efforts for the restoration of Palestinian people's rights and lands. The house members voiced support for the King's plans to save the Arab people of Palestine and to confront Zionist plans, designed to impose hegemony on areas far beyond Palestine. The house's statement pointed in particular to the fact that Jordan will continue to extend support and help to the Palestinian people despite the differences with the PLO leadership, and also pointed to the need for upholding the Palestinian-Jordanian accord signed on Feb 11, 1985 which lays the basis for a strong relationship between the peoples of the two banks of Jordan. This statement based on the facts contained in the King's address to the nation last Wednesday and the cables sent to the monarch expressing support, should be regarded as a demonstration of the unity of the Jordanian family and cohesion among its members.

Al Dustour: Struggling for Palestine

KING Hussein in response to the overwhelming support he received from his nation, has reiterated his determination on pursuing the march for regaining for the Arabs their dignity and their rights. In speeches he delivered to the enthusiastic crowds, the King made it clear that Jordan will continue to uphold its principles and pursue its national objectives. He told the members of the Upper House of Parliament that the Jordanians and Palestinians are partners and will remain so, forming one united unit in the face of challenge and in the struggle for regaining Arab rights in Palestine. For Jordan, he said, the Palestine problem assumes priority over any other, and the Jordanians and the Palestinians will continue to remain linked strongly together, forming one people, with the same aspirations and common destiny. King Hussein reiterated these principles in his interview with the CNN American television network and said that he will continue to strive to help the Palestinians regain the right to self-determination in their homeland.

Sawt Al Shaah: Commitment for Palestine

FOR Jordan, Palestine has been a problem for which King Hussein has exerted all efforts to find a just solution, and the Palestinians have been the partners in the long march to achieve national objectives and aspirations. For its policies, Jordan has been the target of Israel's aggression and has borne the brunt of the sufferings of the Palestinians and has confronted danger on many occasions. This is a fact that all Jordanians and Palestinians realise and they also do realise that the Jordanians can by no means act for the Palestinians who ought to decide on their own future. Jordan, as the King said on several occasions, will continue to extend support and help for the Palestinians in their endeavours and will continue to do what is necessary for regaining the rights of the Palestinian people. King Hussein also said that he decided to stop political coordination with the PLO for obvious reasons but this does not mean that the King will stop his efforts for helping the Palestinians. The King made it clear that Jordan will remain committed to the Palestine cause despite the differences with the PLO and despite the numerous obstacles that could lie in the path ahead.



Jewish politicians find power with Britain's Tories

By Joseph Lelyveld
New York Times

LONDON — When Britain's trade and industry secretary resigned in the middle of a political furor recently, a television interviewer asked a member of the House of Commons what sort of person should be chosen as a replacement. "A red-blooded Englishman," the legislator replied.

Sensing a slur, the Jewish Board of Deputies immediately wrote to John Stokes, the Tory backbencher who made the remark, requesting an explanation.

Leon Brittan, the cabinet member who became a casualty of the controversy over a small helicopter company called Westland, is Jewish. The board asked whether Mr. Stokes's reply could be taken as a backhanded reference to that fact.

Diana Brittan, the wife of the resigning minister, had no doubt.

She told both The Daily Mail and the Jewish Chronicle that there were definitely anti-Semitic innuendos in the criticism and ridicule that her husband had to endure in the days before he resigned. "Not being Jewish, I merely have the indignation of an 'n-th-generation Englishwoman,'" she was quoted as saying in The Chronicle.

Her indignation was not widely noted or shared among Jews or elsewhere. In part this was because of a fairly conspicuous fact about the composition of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's cabinet that obviously is well-known in political circles but scarcely ever mentioned in print. Of its 22 members before Mr. Brittan's resignation, five were Jewish.

The 17 Jews among the 396 Conservatives in the House of Commons account for less than 5 per cent of the party's members there. Also, the 350,000 Jews in the country represent only a little

more than one-half of 1 per cent of the 56.5 million Britons.

Neither law nor custom dictates that cabinets in Britain have to be balanced like a U.S. political ticket. So, although there are twice as many Jews as Scots in the cabinet, the fact is treated as a curiosity and nothing more, when it is mentioned at all.

Geoffrey Paul, the editor of The Jewish Chronicle, observed that if it reflects anything it is the increasing openness of the once socially hidebound Conservative Party, the increasing inclination of many Jews to vote Tory rather than Labour and Mrs. Thatcher's tendency to cold-shoulder the landed establishment that used to provide many of her party's leaders.

"She doesn't care if you're Baptist or a Buddhist," one of the four remaining Jews in the cabinet remarked.

Even with Mr. Brittan gone

from the cabinet, the chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, is from a Jewish background as is the employment secretary, Lord Young, Malcolm Rifkind, the secretary of state for Scotland, and Sir Keith Joseph, the education secretary, also are Jewish.

Non-Jewish Conservatives in the House of Commons confirm that they heard slighting remarks from fellow Tories about Mr. Brittan's Jewishness: when he was at the centre of the Westland furor.

But these came from members who would make slighting remarks about almost anyone with a background different from their own, they said.

Mr. Stokes, the Tory who called for the appointment of "a red-blooded Englishman," said he was amazed that the remark could be construed as anti-Semitic.

He said he just meant someone with "a more relaxed style — a country gentleman or a peer."

Reagan in dilemma over Philippine policy

By Michael Battye
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The Philippines crisis has plunged President Reagan into one of the worst dilemmas of his administration and U.S. officials confess they are far from sure what to do.

The defection of Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and deputy military chief Fidel Ramos from the Marcos camp and their seizure of the Defence Ministry appeared to deepen the confusion in Washington.

"We have ideas, but that doesn't mean we are at all sure what to do," one senior administration source told Reuters. Paul Wolfowitz, Assistant Secretary of State for Asia and one of the key policy-makers on the Philippines, admitted at a congressional hearing there was "no course of action now that does not entail some risks."

Brent Scowcroft, a former national security adviser to two Republican presidents, put it more bluntly.

"To most Americans, the existence of a problem implies the existence of a solution. There may be no good solution to this problem," he told one of many public meetings on an issue that dominated Washington last week.

Officials admit the evolution of the Philippine crisis has taken Washington by surprise at each successive stage.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the announcement of the February 7 election by Marcos on U.S. television caught Washington unawares. So did the rapid formation of a coalition led by Corason Aquino from an opposition believed to be fatally fragmented, and the massive support it won.

Washington was shocked by what several officials called the massive fraud alleged to have been mounted by the Marcos machine to ensure his victory.

Then came last Saturday's dramatic action by Enrile, one of Marcos' oldest allies, and Ramos, a distant cousin, which again caught the U.S. administration flat-footed.

The ministry takeover injected another, more serious element of polarisation into the crisis and appeared only to complicate Reagan's dilemma.

A White House statement clearly distanced Washington still further from the Philippine leader it had staunchly backed for 20 years. It had appealed to both sides to avoid violence, but it offered no clues as to what action the U.S. might take.

In deciding policy in a fast-flowing crisis, Reagan faces rare unanimity in a congress that condemns Marcos as the illegitimate ruler of a vital U.S. ally, Marcos' own obduracy in refusing to contemplate leaving office and Aquino's stubborn insistence that she won the election.

Officials make no secret in private of their desire to see Marcos go. "But life isn't as simple as that," one said. "There is more to this thing than Marcos. The manner of his leaving, if he leaves, is terribly important. If he leaves, there are still many things to be done," he added.

Senior administration officials have publicly urged extreme caution. They have pleaded against precipitate action in dealing with what one official described as a terribly dangerous situation that has become Reagan's most pressing foreign policy problem.

But they have managed to avoid disclosing their policy options by

sending veteran negotiator Philip Habib to Manila to help work out a policy to deal with the crisis.

Officials have told congressional hearings they could not discuss options in public until Habib returns and reports to Reagan after extensive talks with key players in the Philippines.

They say the Habib mission gained them valuable time.

Even in private they refuse to discuss possible U.S. reactions to the crisis. They are willing only to talk about the general principles involved in attempting to resolve a whole series of conflicting pressures.

They say Washington wants to build on the widespread evidence the election showed of a Philippine hunger for democracy.

A failure to back moderates pushing for a solution could send vast numbers of recruits into the arms of the Communist New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas whose war against Marcos is growing at a speed that frightens Washington.

"We obviously want to pressure Marcos, but not too much. He could take it all down with him," one said.

Democracy, they argue, is the best defence against an NPA takeover. Such a calamity, in Washington's eyes, would be the only way it would lose access to the two huge U.S. bases in the Philippines, the officials say.

They argue that Subic Bay Base and Clark Air Force Base, the biggest outside the continental United States, are of such economic importance to the Philippines that an Aquino government would not close them.

"Whenever Filipinos want to gain our attention they bother about closing the bases. It works, but we don't think it's a possibility, no matter how much agitation

there is on the subject," one said.

The officials sympathise with Aquino's campaign to change the official election result but seem genuinely scared that street demonstrations will pave the way to anarchy.

That would allow a major opening for the NPA to cause mischief, as would reimposition by Marcos of the martial law he clamped on the country from 1972 to 1981.

"It is not in our interests to see him collapse in a violent revolution, nor is it in the interests of the moderates," an official said. "We don't want to do anything that might push it over the edge."

The officials insist that while Washington has influence in the Philippines, it is not as great as the Aquino camp believes or Congress implies.

"Aquino hears the U.S. cavalry coming. She expects us to do something we can't and the impression Congress gives of omnipotence encourages that," an official said.

The administration would not be averse to channelling economic aid through private organisations rather than through the government.

But, in the belief it would demoralise the 250,000-strong military and weaken its fight against the NPA, they oppose efforts to suspend military aid.

One option ruled out is a coup to getrid of Marcos — "We're not in that business anymore, and anyway we want to see the Filipinos deal with the problem," one official said.

Deep sighs and shrugs of the shoulders are the most common reactions to the question of what is to be done in America's turbulent former colony.

"Anything short of Marcos' departure is going to take great creativity," according to one official.

Man from the sidelines now Philippines man on the spot

MANILA (R) — Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, holding out in his own ministry against Ferdinand Marcos, has become president of the Philippines.

But on the surface he has remained loyal to Marcos as a top cabinet minister for all but five years of the president's rule.

Enrile rallied the then 200,000 strong armed forces behind Marcos when the president declared martial law in September 1972. He stayed loyal to Marcos even when the president appointed General Fabian Ver as armed forces chief of staff and Enrile began to lose his grip on the military chain of command.

A successful lawyer before joining the government 16 years ago, Enrile first nursed presidential ambitions after the August 1983 murder of Mr. Aquino following reports that Marcos would not run again.

Until the president announced he would stand for another term, Imelda Marcos was Enrile's main

opponent for the presidency — and the two are said to have mistrusted each other since, leading rival camps in cabinet.

His political stronghold has been the rugged mountains of Cagayan in the northern Philippines. Opponents say he fought political campaigns as though he were waging a war.

But he never seemed to be involved in the public debate over whether Ver should be succeeded as chief of staff by Lieutenant-General Fidel Ramos, his companion in the revolt against Marcos.

"He is a capable lawyer, politician and member of parliament, and probably very loyal but he seems to be left out of a lot of decision-making," said one diplomat.

Enrile told reporters last March that he considered his job a temporary one, on a day to day basis.

"That's because I've always considered my position with the government to be at the pleasure of the appointing power, not at



my pleasure... I think my hopes of getting out (of the government) are quite dim."

He said in November 1984 that those who talked of a military coup in the Philippines "must be reading too many James Bond sto-

ries."

"You must have a leader to carry out a coup," he said. "You must have the preparations... and you must make an irreversible act."

Enrile was reported to have volunteered to help Corason Aquino, if she became president, in dealing with Communist insurgency.

He also supported "Mr. and Ms" a weekly supplement to the daily opposition newspaper the "Philippine Inquirer" which carried full verbatim accounts of the official inquiry into the murder of Aquino and of the trial that ended in the acquittal of Ver and 25 others in connection with the 1983 killing.

Enrile himself was never touched by the Aquino murder scandal even though all but one of the accused were servicemen.

Born on February 14, 1924, Enrile is married to Cristina Castenar, an actress, and has one son and a daughter, both in their mid-twenties.

Rafah: A victim of 'peace'

By Paul Christopher

AT the southern end of the occupied Gaza Strip, where the sown meets the desert and where Israel confronts Egypt, the town of Rafah spreads like a fabled oasis upon the sand. About 85,000 Palestinians, nearly half of them refugees, live in this wretched place. The town and the camps are no more than jumbled collections of ramshackle little quarters, squat dwellings with glassless windows and rotting doors, criss-crossed by narrow alleys along which child and fowl roam in search of occasional delights. On the main street, the very hub of town life, commerce is at a virtual standstill. There are scarcely more than a dozen shops and businesses functioning; prominent among these are four barbers, a store which sells used spares for Peugeot 404s and a furniture maker.

Abu Hisham, a kindly and gentle soul now in his 70s, is still cutting hair from his hole-in-the-wall salon. When work is slack he sits in his magnificent barber's chair imported from Chicago in the 1930s, reading from the Quran. After a lifetime spent under foreign occupation, he wryly observes that at least the British soldiers brought him custom, something which the Israelis don't. Outside his shop a group of money-changers gather, as much out of habit as in the expectation of trading. Even the market, usually the most animated feature of a town this size, is a drab and fly-blown affair.

Just beyond the market, and about half way down this main street, the border divides the town in two. When Israel handed back Sinai to Egypt following the Camp David accords, the border had to be redrawn. Whereas the three earlier armistice agreements of this century had maintained the border to the south of Rafah, the one reached in 1982 did not. In May of that year Israeli army bulldozers cut a swathe through the town reducing 300 houses to rubble, thus clearing the way for the military road, security fences and watchtowers which adorn the frontier. Those left homeless salvaged what they could from the wreckage and moved to a resettlement site out of town to rebuild their homes as best they might. Just over a year later additional security measures led to the destruction of yet more houses, causing another exodus to the resettlement site and swelling its numbers to over 4,000 refugees.

The border is closed to all. Families are cut off from one another, farmers can no longer reach their fields and the flow of cross-border trade has been halted. Every day relatives can be seen standing at the edge of the razor wire entanglements shouting their news and gossip across the no-man's-land. For the elderly who gather here there are many who can manage no more than a feeble

wave. For them the closed border is the final indignity of a political bondage that stretches back to 1949. Since that time Rafah has had to cope with an influx of refugees from the north, with the seizure of agricultural lands to the east, with air strikes during the '67 war, and with the demise of the railway in 1973. Geographically as well as politically, Rafah lies at the end of a cul-de-sac.

With its economy in ruins the people of Rafah must look elsewhere for work. A few find construction work on the neighbouring settlements building the homes, schools and synagogues for the "new pioneers." But mostly the people have become migrant wage labourers who commute daily to Israel in search of work. Their journey begins around 4 a.m. and takes two or three hours to complete but because Israeli law forbids them to remain overnight in Israel, they are compelled to submit to an exhausting routine.

It is not surprising then, that Rafah has an abandoned air about it, an impression heightened by the desolation of its architecture and services. The railway which once linked London with Cairo, still with its rails intact on the Gazan side, now serves as a walkway for *unwashed* students who pace up and down learning their lessons by rote. For the Bedouin too, whose free movement is restricted by the closed border, the railway tracks and cuttings provide a suitable terrain for their camps. In what passes for the post office, sardonic grins greet the unsuspecting visitor who imagines he can make a telephone call — the equipment is there but it no longer works.

There is something disquieting about this idle technology, evidence perhaps that the occupation authorities do not want so much to hinder development as to reverse it, a reality which is very much in contrast to their publicly stated position on the matter. A recent Israeli government publication proclaimed the absence of unemployment, the arrival of a tremendous boom in private housing and the expansion of the infrastructure in the provision of water and electricity. Furthermore the GNP of the Gaza Strip had risen 3.5 times since 1968. Such progress is remarkably elusive in Rafah.

Despite the thin diet of poverty and despair, of curfews and collective punishment, the people here display considerable resilience to the occupation. Perhaps this is best expressed by the failure of the local Village League to achieve its purpose in establishing a surrogate power base. Rafah's first Israel-appointed mayor was shot dead for being a collaborator and his successor was driven out of office on a conviction of drug smuggling which the Israelis themselves were forced to administer — Middle East International, London.

U.S. military suffer flaws exposed on Grenada

By Christopher Hanson
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The U.S. invasion of Grenada that ousted a Marxist regime more than two years ago gave President Reagan a political boost, but critics say it exposed serious U.S. military flaws that have not been corrected.

Reagan, visiting the small Caribbean island on last Thursday, was cheered wildly by Grenadians as he spoke of freedom and other American virtues, reminding the world of his triumph.

But critics including members of Congress and some military officers, Grenada was not such a triumph.

They say U.S. troops performed poorly in the October, 1983, attack, which pitted 7,000 Americans against only about 670 Cubans, and cite U.S. intelligence failures, bureaucratic bungling, poor tactics and surprising ineptitude by America's elite special forces.

"The U.S. would not perform any better in a brush-fire war today," Pentagon consultant Steven Canby, an army reserve Lieutenant-Colonel, told Reuters. Some Defence Department officials say privately they fear he may be right.

The Pentagon, strongly rejecting such criticism, has deemed Grenada a big victory. By one estimate, it will soon have awarded over 19,000 medals for the operation — nearly three times the U.S. troop total.

Pentagon officials note that all U.S. objectives were achieved in the operation: the island was seized, American medical students studying there "liberated" from danger following a hard-line Marxist coup and a pro-U.S. government installed leading to democratic elections.

Admiral James Watkins, the chief of naval operations, told Congress last week: "If we analysed World War II the way we analysed Grenada, we lost that one badly. (The criticism) comes from PIDs with foreign accents

who have never served their country."

One of the strongest critics, Army War College lecturer and ex-military intelligence officer, Richard Gabriel, wrote in the current Washington monthly magazine that intelligence failures were a key problem.

He said U.S. intelligence did not know the strength or location of enemy positions. Troops lacked adequate maps and did not know the location of the medical students they were supposed to rescue, leaving many exposed as potential hostages for two days. Congressional sources confirmed his account.

Intelligence failures were also cited in U.S. operations including the abortive 1980 bid to rescue American hostages in Iran and a marine corps peacekeeping mission in Lebanon during which 240 U.S. marines died in a suicide attack.

Pentagon officials say intelligence was generally good during Grenada and is better today, but congressional sources familiar with the issue are not convinced. Critics also allege U.S. special operations teams, including the vaunted Delta Force now featured in a popular adventure film, displayed surprising ineptitude on Grenada.

Gabriel said 22 members of a 40-man Delta unit sent to scout a landing site were killed or wounded when the group was spotted, surrounded and pinned down for hours. The Delta group inadvertently gave the Cubans a four-hour warning of the pending main attack, he said.

One four-man navy seal commando team drowned trying to get ashore, another drifted out to sea in a dinghy when its engine failed and a 22-man seal group was surrounded with 10 of its members wounded after it was spotted trying to rescue Grenada's imprisoned governor-general, according to Gabriel.

The Pentagon denies seals were involved in the operation and refuses to comment on special operations.

Japanese add laughter to their curricula

By Masafumi Abe

OSAKA, Japan — Japanese wage earners once dreamed of middle-class affluence. Today the dream has become a way of life for perhaps 90 per cent of them.

"That's true," comments Tomoji Kondo, 53. "A majority of the Japanese have grown fat," he continues. "But they have ceased to laugh merrily in workplaces and at home. A growing number of people feel isolated."

Kondo began to teach a class of 200 people the art of laughing last June after he resigned as a salesman of health equipment. Till 1960, he had been a comedian.

A recent estimate of the Health and Welfare Ministry found that one in every 30 office workers is treated annually at a mental hospital or clinic for emotional disorders such as schizophrenia, depression and alcoholism. The figure represents an alarming 70 per cent increase in 25 years, the study says.

Believing that laughter is the best medicine to prevent as well as cure tension-related maladies, Kondo opened a strange class in Osaka last June. The class teaches the art of smiling and learning to laugh easily.

On Wednesday nights, men and women gather at a third-floor classroom in a building on a back street. Under the direction of Kondo, they practise laughing and smiling with the help of a quadrilateral mirror held before them.

If you are in a cheerful mood, they are told, it is easier to get people to share your interests and feelings than if you are solemn or sad, when people tend to avoid you.

Beginners make poor attempts. Their faces and lips are laughing.

Computers take over tax processing in the U.S.

By Jim Luther
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service, the federal agency that collects Americans' income taxes, is testing an electronic system that could let citizens transmit tax information directly to the government from home computers.

Officials say the system, which will start with professional tax preparers, electronically transmitting their clients' tax forms, will reduce errors, save money for the government and give taxpayers faster tax refunds.

If the experiment works, home computer owners will be able to send their own tax forms. Within five years as many as 32 million people could be using electronic filing, internal revenue commissioner Roscoe L. Egger Jr. told reporters last Thursday.

He called the project filing a tax report "untouched by human hands."

At present, most Americans have taxes withheld from their wages at their place of work. Once a year, they mail the government a tax form showing their total income from all sources, the amount of tax withheld and special deductions they may be entitled to. They then calculate on the form how much more money they owe the government, or what size refund they are entitled to.

The electronic filing system is being tested this year in three test areas in the states of Arizona, Ohio and North Carolina. The project is open only to taxpayers with fairly simple tax situations who are due a refund and who hire

but there is no sign of merriment in their eyes.

Mitsuo Okada, 55, who works for a building maintenance firm, is one of the regular attendees. She worked at a small eating and drinking house for nine years. But she got fed up with the hollow laugh of businessmen bad-mouthing their seniors and fellow workers while drinking. "I joined the class because I want to have a hearty laugh," she confides.

A 44-year-old real estate agent, another regular, says he feels as if he lives in a different world than the one he was living in.

People looked upon him as straitlaced. He found it difficult to make friends. But now, mainly people find it easy to talk with him.

"There certainly is truth in the Japanese saying that 'Fortune comes to a merry home,'" he says with a laugh. Since taking the course his own business has become prosperous.

Tuition of only 500 yen (\$2.50) per lesson has attracted 200 people. They include company executives and managers in charge of their own training.

They are not alone. In Osaka, 156 senior citizens gather once a month to have a good laugh. They present short, satirical essays dealing with news events or discuss the humorous usages of popular words. The sessions cost 500 yen (\$2.50) a month.

In rural Yamaguchi Prefecture, laughing is employed differently. During the last days of the year, peasants gather at a farmhouse and burst out laughing in order to express thanks for a good year of farming and pray for a good harvest. The custom dates back 800 years and draws many tourists who want nothing more than — what else — a good laugh — Asahi News Service.

one of six professional preparers to fill out their forms.

Those professionals will charge a fee in the \$10-to-20 range to file the tax form in addition to the fee for preparing it.

Next year, the programme will be expanded to 10 areas, and a new pilot project will test the feasibility of having the government electronically transmit a refund check directly to the taxpayer's bank account.

"This is the beginning of a journey that is going to take the IRS to a point in the 1990s that we can receive electronically filed returns (tax forms) from anywhere in the world," said John Wick, assistant internal revenue commissioner in charge of planning.

Eventually, Wick said, people who own home computers should be able to file electronically without going through a professional.

In the electronic system, a professional completes the tax form on computer and, rather than giving it to the taxpayer to mail, sends it via telephone line to an Internal Revenue Service computer in Cincinnati, where it is processed.

That saves the service the time and trouble of opening envelopes, sorting forms, numbering them by hand, editing and coding the figures and feeding the information on to magnetic tape for a computer to read.

Under the new system, a taxpayer could get a refund as much as three weeks sooner than at present, Egger said. The change probably would mean fewer errors for the Internal Revenue Service to worry about, and the tax-collecting agency would improve its efficiency, Wick said.

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Rio's carnival stretches limits of permissiveness

By Richard Jarvie

Reuter

RIO DE JANEIRO — Carnival in Rio, once known as a festival of bright costumes, lively music and beautiful women, is becoming more famous for its nudity, licentious behaviour and transvestites.

While the permissive atmosphere attracts thousands of tourists, including hundreds of homosexuals, to Rio's carnival, a moral backlash can be felt in the city both among the residents and foreign visitors.

Television programmes, newspapers and magazines showed scenes of recent pre-carnival balls which some critics complained resembled Sodom and Gomorrah more than the Christian festival they are meant to celebrate.

At carnival time, many women go topless, spontaneous striptease acts abound and men and women — and men and men — are frequently seen in passionate, public embrace.

During the five days leading up to Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent, a band of transvestites wander the streets near the famous Copacabana beach, shocking wide-eyed tourists with their outrageous, often outrageous, behaviour.

The Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro, Cardinal Eugenio Sales, this week described carnival as "a wound which is corroding the fibre of our people — the exaltation of pomography."

The carnival celebrations were at their most outrageous on the night of Shrove Tuesday at the "grand gala gay" held in a luxurious night club.

More than 5,000 people paid a minimum of \$40 just to enter the packed two-storey building. Crowds gathered outside to watch the spectacle of the provocatively-dressed transvestites and transsexuals arriving.

Inside the building it was often impossible to tell men from women as near-naked transvestites proudly exhibited the results of silicone injections and the skills of plastic surgeons.

One reveler sported the sign "AIDS" on his hat and carried a coffin as a grim reminder of the killer disease which the authorities were feared would be spread by promiscuity during the festivities.

Soccer star Socrates, a medical doctor, appeared on television during carnival to warn homosexuals to protect themselves against AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) by using condoms.

Miners put down roots in Siberia's wilderness

Ten years ago, there was only pine forest and wildlife. Now, the 60,000-population town of Neryungri pulsates with life centred around mining. Patrick Cockburn reports on a Russian experiment.

AT A temperature of minus 30 deg C, a light mist forms in the vast open-cast mine at Neryungri in eastern Siberia making it difficult to see clearly the mechanical grabs and 180-ton trucks extracting coal at the bottom of the pit.

Standing on the rim of the excavation, it is possible, nevertheless, to watch the bucket shovels move along enormous terraces on the other side of the pit. On the higher terraces they are removing the 350 metres of hard rock which lie above the coal seam from which dumper trucks roll backwards and forwards as they are rapidly filled by the bucket shovels.

In the eight months' winter, work never stops. At these temperatures it is easy to understand why the truck and bucket shovel drivers earn up to Rs800 (\$1,014) a month, four times the average Soviet wage.

On their success at extracting 1.3 million tons of coal this year depend both the Neryungri mine and the town of the same name, built from nothing over the past 10 years as a test case or laboratory for the development of the far-eastern parts of Siberia. The mineral wealth of the Yakutia, an area six times the size of France with a population of just 1 million, has always tempted Soviet planners.

but they have never decided the way to obtain the best return from the vast investments needed to exploit it.

The investment is so heavy because the climate is among the worst in the world. Everything is built from scratch on the frozen earth.

Mr. Pyotr Fyodorov, the mayor of Neryungri, says that when he arrived in 1975 the site of the city was only pine forest inhabited by hardy wildlife.

Neryungri now has a population of 60,000 and South Yakutia as a whole 112,000. Throughout the town, cranes are working to build new tower blocks from building materials made in a local factory.

There is a three-year waiting list for apartments. Shops are well-stocked, and there are no queues. To attract labour, salaries rise by annual increments to 2.5 times the average of the rest of the country. A truck driver named Volodya, in his late 20s delivering building panels to a construction site, said he earned Rs800 a month.

"Far more than I earned in the Urals where I used to work."

This is a good wage even for Neryungri. The average salary is between Rs400-Rs500 with pay going up for each extra year a worker stays in the town. Rent for a three-room flat is only Rs25 a

month, and other incentives include the right to buy a car after three years. In the truck depot, the notice board offers inclusive tours to Cuba for Rs640.

The aim of the planners is to establish a city with a permanent population of 150,000 which can be used as a base for exploiting the region. This is preferred to a miners' camp with minimum facilities and a shifting population of workers attracted by the high wages at the mine. Neryungri is already linked to the Baikal-Amur (BAM) railway by a spur line, and this is to be extended to Yakutsk, 830 km to the north, by 1995.

In the short term, coal cannot be expected to pay for the high costs of these plans. Last year 3.75 million tons of enriched coking coal was produced, but of this 3.2 million tons is earmarked for Japan in repayment for a \$450 million credit facility for a Neryungri plant and equipment arranged in 1974. Another 600,000 tons was sold to North Korea.

Mr. Yuri Zakharov, chief engineer of the Yakuti Coal Administration, admits that the coal produced at Neryungri is expensive. He cites three reasons: 7 cu metres of rock have to be moved for every ton of coal extracted at Neryungri, much higher than other Soviet open-cast mines, the cost of imported equipment is five to six times the cost of their

Soviet equivalent; salaries are higher than in other mining areas. Officials in Neryungri say good apartments are as important as high salaries in keeping workers.

Mr. V. Balduev, Communist Party first secretary for Neryungri, quotes a survey: "25 per cent of those questioned say they will stay with us for good while 55 per cent say they will stay for 15 to 20 years."

For those who stay the rewards are high.

Mr. Yuri Mekin, a 45-year-old foreman at the truck depot, and his wife Nina arrived nine years ago from Irkutsk. They live in a

well-heated, three-room apartment and say that after the first year new arrivals get used to the cold.

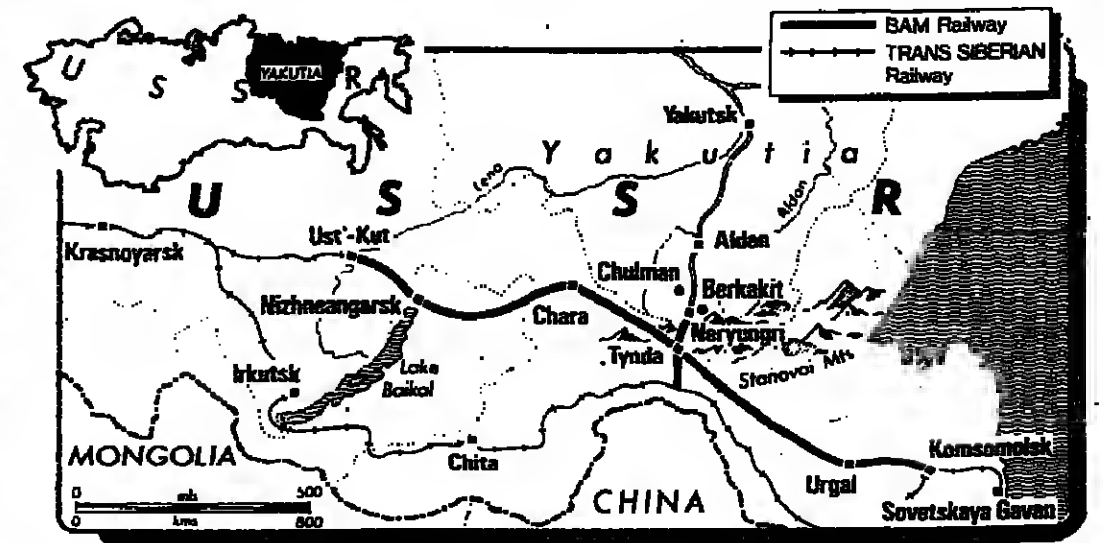
Every two years the couple holiday in the Crimea and they also own a holiday bungalow outside Neryungri. Nina Mekin says they will stay another five years. Their ambition in life is to "buy or build a yacht to sail on Lake Baikal."

Neryungri is the first of 11 territorial production centres to be built along the BAM railroad, opening up the resources of East Siberia and the Far East. Although local workers refer to the rest of the Soviet Union as "the

mainland," decisions on local investment remain largely with the ministries in Moscow.

This lack of a local development authority with real power hampers co-ordination of planning and decision-making, say some local officials. It also makes it more difficult to answer the question always facing the builders of Neryungri.

Will the town and its industries, impressive achievements though they are, ever be worth the money and effort they have cost to construct in the barren hills of eastern Siberia — Financial Times news feature.



Public outcry brings changes in Seoul's Olympic gate

By Granville Watts

Reuter

SEOUL — South Korea's government-directed press has scored a rare hit with public opinion by halting a project to erect a gigantic "Olympic gate" larger than the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

The gate, to be built outside the main Olympic sports stadium in Seoul, was intended to glorify the games being held there in 1988.

The 90-metre — tall structure was to epitomise the Olympic spirit, but critics said it looked more like a rocket-launcher.

Seoul city officials proudly boasted that the gate, topped with flaring wings, would become the world's largest Olympic monument.

But when Seoul citizens saw artists' sketches of the gate in their newspapers the response was immediate: Too big, too expensive, too awful.

Some critics estimated the gate could cost \$22 million instead of the originally-budgeted \$9 million.

Now city officials say they are planning something smaller.

"Hardly the sort of symbolism you want for the Olympics," said one foreign diplomat.

The Korea Herald newspaper said the gate was criticised for its "gigantesqueness" and its "controversial image."

By contrast everyone seems to like the modernistic 100,000-

capacity main Olympic stadium, completed ahead of time last year and due to be inaugurated for the Asian Games here in October.

There has also been praise for a massive clean-up operation in Seoul including the dredging and cleansing of the wide Han river which flows through the capital.

The river was once little more than an open sewer, but a modern sewage system now carries the city's waste in hidden pipes along its banks and fish are returning in increasing numbers to the cleaner river water.

Seoul's accident-prone city council, however, ran into trouble again when it published designs for new pleasure craft to carry sightseers on the river.

Newspapers carried artists' sketches of four of the proposed boats with large garish statues of tigers, lions, horses and peacocks filling the open foredecks.

"Obnoxious," raged the Korea Times, pointing out that the statues were not only unattractive but would obstruct the view.

Protest letters flowed into city hall which hastily announced it was scrapping the animal boat designs and going back to the drawing board.

Work had already begun on the boats, however, and when the boat-building workers got news of the cancellation, they stormed the company office demanding payment for their efforts.

Abbadi: Scholar, soldier and bedouin

By Josephine Zanarini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Look at that telephone over there," says Dr. Ahmad Oweid Abbadi, pointing in the direction of a regular beige phone. "If it is not used it remains a jumble of plastic and metal. The human brain is the same. We must learn to make the best of our intelligence," adds the doctor, one of Jordan's most versatile writers.

Born in Wadi Seir forty years ago, the son of a bedouin family, both his life style and literary vision are intimately influenced by tribal traditions and his concept of the bedouin role on the development of Jordan.

A tall man of military erectness, he is a commanding figure yet obviously a person of joie de vivre, he laughs often and heartily. He is positive and definite in his movements, rarely sitting but pacing relaxed yet thoughtful around his spartan office at the Police officers Training school. For Dr. Abbadi is not only one of Jordan's best known writers but he is also a full colonel in the Jordanian Police Force and the doctor before his name indicates a doctorate in philosophy from Cambridge University.

It is immediately apparent in Dr. Abbadi that his three roles are of equal importance — the police officer continues the bedouin military tradition, the writer weaves stories from tribal inspirations and the academic rationalises the complex bedouin cultural and historic mores. And although very much a self-made man, the doctor remains very much a bedouin, yet

one of the new bedouins who treasure the past and wish to model the future upon the best of their traditions.

His role in the police force, says Dr. Abbadi, satisfies the bedouin urge for action. He joined the force twenty one years ago and gained his present rank of full colonel "step by step." Whilst in the police he commenced his academic career, first studying for his undergraduate degree by correspondence, then later his masters. The decision to continue his studies at Cambridge was made by him, he explains with a hearty laugh. "You might say the Jordan Times led me to Cambridge." By chance a British orientalist, Professor A.R. Serjeant, read an interview with the doctor whilst on a flight out of Amman after a brief stop-over here en route from Saudi Arabia to London. The Professor requested the British Council in Amman to send him some of Dr. Abbadi's books. "I forwarded him four and that's how our correspondence began," says the doctor. In 1978, Professor Serjeant invited Dr. Abbadi to a seminar in London, and during their first meeting he suggested to him to attend Cambridge.

The university meant "a great challenge and great suffering," says the doctor amused in retrospect at his efforts exerted in that powerful university. He finished his doctorate in less than three years and presented a complex and unique thesis on bedouin justice in Jordan.

Throughout his career Dr. Abbadi has written constantly and continuously. When asked about

his books he comments, "I have written many — but how many have been published?" he laughs adding "well, around ten." However two are now being prepared for publication in Amman, another one in Beirut as well as one in London.

Dr. Abbadi has written plays for television in both Arabic and English, including a script for a joint Jordanian-German television series which is set in different historic locations throughout Jordan. His latest work for television was written in honour of His Majesty King Hussein's 50th birthday celebrations and should be shown on Jordan T.V. in the near future.

What compels Dr. Abbadi to write? "I write," he says, "because I love my country and my people and no-one is writing about them." After a short pause he adds "my writing has four dimensions, the first is rooted in the history of this country, the second in the land, the soil, the texture of Jordan," then "the people — themselves and fourthly the regime."

He stops yet again savouring each element and then adds, "we, all of us together constitute the unity of Jordan."

He clearly defines the literary role — "I believe," he says, "the writer must signify and clarify the philosophy and ideology of the country. We are the yeast which leavens the feelings and conceptions of our nationhood."

Which of his works remains his favourite? He laughs and replies, "I enjoy what I have most recently finished but they are all my children."

Like very few writers Dr. Abbadi is equally conversant in either his native tongue or in English. However, he maintains that some things are better said in Arabic, others in English.

Conforming with an age-old bedouin custom, he often returns to the desert or rural areas for peace and inspiration. And it is usually in the tranquility of the Jordanian countryside that he writes most of his poetry.

However Dr. Abbadi is not optimistic about the future of the bedouins. Their physical presence has all but disappeared, "the bedouin is no more seen on his camel or horse," says the doctor.

However, in Dr. Abbadi and those like him, lie the beginnings of the new bedouin generation — urbanised men who yet live their lives with the integrity of the desert dweller, educated men who respect their historical origins, and creative men who utilise the bedouin tradition to mould their own future and that of their country.



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NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL

NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL

Opens a new branch in Amman and offers its wide experience in management, education and teaching. The New English School has proved its capability to impart the best education for students to enable them to pass all official examinations and enter all universities of the world.

Classes will open with the start of the coming scholastic year in September 1986 at the new temporary building located at Shmeisani, behind the Professional Associations Complex.

Teaching will be for the primary classes, the first two pre-school age classes from the age of three and a half to five in addition to all the elementary classes until the sixth elementary class.

Parents wishing to register their children at the school building for discussion visit Shmeisani, behind the Professional Associations Complex.

Tel. 444444

France lose two more for N.Ireland friendly

PARIS (R) — France, already deprived of Jean Tigana, Monday lost forwards Jose Toure and Bruno Bellone to injury for their soccer friendly against fellow World Cup qualifiers Northern Ireland on Wednesday.

Midfielder Tigana suffered a thigh strain in training last Friday, missed Bordeaux's 3-1 victory over Metz the following day and pulled out of the national squad before they assembled at their pre-match headquarters in Jouy-en-Josas.

Toure, current first choice up front alongside Dominique Rocheteau, injured his knee playing for Nantes at Nice on Saturday while left-winger Bellone, whose last outing for France was as substitute in last October's defeat of Luxembourg in a World Cup qualifier, injured his thigh in Monaco's game at Laval.

Thierry Tusseau takes Bordeaux team-mate Tigana's place in the squad. Daniel Xuereb and Philippe Verduysee have been called in to replace Toure and Bellone.

The re-shuffle in attack could mean a first cap for Jean-Pierre

Papin of Belgian First Division club Brugge.

Michel Platini, who suffered a groin strain in Juventus' weekend victory over Bari in the Italian league, is not joining the rest of the French squad until Monday evening but he is expected to be fit to lead France on Wednesday.

In other soccer news from France, Aime Jacquet, who piloted Bordeaux to the French First Division soccer title in 1984 and 1985, has extended his contract as the club's first team trainer for a further season, the club said Monday.

Jacquet signed Sunday for his seventh season and three leading players who have all played for France also renewed their contracts with Bordeaux, who trail leaders Paris Saint-Germain by eight points in the current championship.

Defenders Patrick Battiston and Leonard Specht signed for

one more year apiece while midfielder Rene Girard concluded a two-year extension.

Two other internationals at the end of their contracts have yet to decide their futures — midfielders Jean Tigana and Thierry Tusseau. Tigana, who will announce his decision after April 1 when the domestic transfer season opens, has received offers from clubs in Italy, England and Switzerland. Bordeaux would like to keep him.

French clubs cannot make transfer approaches yet but several are interested in Tigana, including Olympique Marseilles who will be managed by former national team chief Michel Hidalgo next season.

Tusseau, named Monday to take the injured Tigana's place in the 16-strong squad for Wednesday's World Cup warm-up match against Northern Ireland here, alternates between midfield and defence at Bordeaux and would prefer a settled midfield slot.

Evergreen international midfielder Alain Giresse, 33, renewed his contract with Bordeaux last September which will take him into his 17th season with the club next season.

Lendl overcomes Wilander after rain delay to capture Players title

BOCA RATON, Florida (R) — Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, the world's top-ranked tennis player, overcame a serious challenge from Mats Wilander of Sweden, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 to win the International Players Championship Sunday in a final interrupted by rain for more than three hours.

Lendl, unbeaten in 1986, collected the winner's share of \$112,500 for the victory. He won the Masters and the U.S. Pro Indoor tournaments last month.

The match was even at a set apiece and 2-2 in the third set tie-breaker when rain delayed play, which resumed three hours and 15

minutes later.

"There was nothing you could do about it but wait," Lendl said. "I watched golf on television."

"I sat around and ate something," Wilander said. "It was better to wait the three hours than have them postpone it and have to come back to play it the next day."

"I was struggling, trying to come in on my serve," Lendl said. "I played better when we came back from the delay."

Lendl lost a 40-0 lead in the sixth game of the first set and failed to convert his only break point of the set in the next game when Wilander served an ace.

"I played well at the beginning," Wilander said. "I hadn't played this well since the French Open (where he beat Lendl in the final). But I played bad in the second set and Lendl's service got better."

Wilander, 21, lost his service to a Lendl volley drop shot to start the third set. But he worked to get even and broke Lendl's service in the next game.

Wilander, who won \$56,250, erased a Lendl break point with an ace in the third game and won it with another ace. He had 11 aces in the match.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Portugal's First Division race tightens

LISBON (R) — The three-way race for the Portuguese First Division title became even closer this weekend as Porto and Sporting both won to draw level with Benfica, whose match was abandoned. Englishman Raphael Meade helped Sporting to a 4-2 win over Portimonense, scoring with a spectacular running header in the 62nd minute to turn the tide of a close-fought game. Sporting, who conceded their first home goals of the season, are now level on 35 points with Benfica and Porto who scraped a 2-1 win over Academica thanks to a last-minute penalty from Andre.

Soviets beat Mexican club side 2-0

IRAPUATO, Mexico (R) — The Soviet Union beat Mexican First Division side Irapuato 2-0 Sunday night to end a three-game warm-up for the World Soccer Cup finals in June. The Russians, who lost 1-0 to the Mexican national team last week, played much better here, forcing Irapuato to defend for most of the game and rarely allowing them to mount an attack. The only blemish on their performance came when substitute Alexander Zavarov was sent off in the 75th minute.

Breakaway league threatens in Scotland

GLASGOW, Scotland (R) — Scotland's nine Premier League teams have issued an open invitation to other clubs to join them in a breakaway football league next season. Motherwell Chairman Ian Livingston confirmed Sunday night the split now looks certain to go ahead, although a special meeting of all 38 Scottish league clubs is to be held on March 12. "We have decided to apply to the Scottish Football Association (SFA) to consider a new constitution and we are inviting any Scottish club in the league or out to submit applications for membership," Livingston said.

Two world records fall in California

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — Johnny Gray of the United States broke the four-year-old world indoor record for the 1,000-metre run and Galina Chistyakova of the Soviet Union topped her own mark in the triple jump event in the San Diego Invitational Indoor Athletics Meeting Sunday. Gray covered the 1,000 metres in two minutes, 43.9 seconds to break the old mark of 2:04.7 set by American Don Paige. Chistyakova bettered her own world best triple jump effort, set just two nights ago, by registering 13.58 metres in the event. Her old record was 13.43 metres.

Real stops Sevilla thanks to goal from Butragueno

MADRID, Spain (R) — Emilio Butragueno struck four minutes from time to snatch Real Madrid's 2-1 home win over Sevilla Sunday which kept the league leaders six

points clear at the top of the Spanish First Division.

With nearest rivals and defending champions Barcelona denying their injury problems to win 3-1 at Cadiz, Butragueno's effort may yet prove vital for Real.

The gifted striker pounced after Real had dominated for long periods but failed to turn their supremacy into goals.

Butragueno put his side one up after only four minutes from a pass by midfielder Ricardo Gallego. But Sevilla levelled 21 minutes later when Juan Alvarez robbed international defender Antonio Maceda and fired home.

Barcelona, with 10 members of their star-studded squad on the injury list, suffered a second minute setback when Jose Mejias shot Cadiz ahead.

But once Angel Alonso levelled in the 31st minute following Paraguayan striker Raul Amarilla's long drive, the visitors never looked back.

International defender Julio Alberto scored a splendid solo effort in the 72nd minute to put Barcelona 2-1 up before Angel Pedraza sealed the win following a goal-mouth scramble.

The results left Barcelona on 58 points and Real on 44.

Jordanians find competition fun at the Cairo Bridge Festival

By Liliane Ayoub
Special to the Jordan Times

THIRTY Jordanians have participated in the annual bridge festival held this February in Cairo, Egypt. Fifteen other countries participated, other nationalities including Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, India, France, Greece, Poland, and Turkey.

There were three tournaments in the festival. The Open Pairs (90 teams, the Mixed Pairs (60), and the team of 4 (28 teams).

Most of the prizes were won by Egyptians. The first place winners in the Open Pairs were Mohammad Hemed and Adil Tiah, the first in the Mixed Pairs were Zita Aswad and Wahid Garana, and in the Open Teams the winners were Sadek Radwan, Amro Askany, Medhat Koth and Yehia Khalil.

There were several social invitations during the festivals, one was a dinner at the lovely residence of Mr. Farouk Akl, the president of the Egyptian Bridge Federation. A buffet luncheon was held at the Green Pyramids Hotel and the festival ended with a big gala at the Ramses Hilton where the prizes were distributed.

Mr. George Saad, the senior bridge player in Egypt who has played international bridge since 1946, said "the national players are better than last year. Also the prizes are higher. \$4000 for the first pair, \$3000 for the first mixed pair and \$3000 for first place in the open team." He added that next year they hope that more nations will join, and that the programme will contain trips all over Egypt, visits to the museum, a trip to Luxor and Aswan and another trip on a boat on the Nile with a

bridge game.

Mr. Magdi Nour, the technical manager of the Bridge Federation and the Egyptian coach, said "it took us a lot of work in order to organise the festival." He added that most bridge players in Egypt are friends. They meet in the club and play together. They have an interclub tournament where teams compete for a cup. This happens all through the year. "It is my responsibility to give programming for the new generation, we teach and train them under the supervision of the federation. We arrange weekly tournaments and we analyse every hand," Mr. Nour said.

Mr. Khouri, a Jordanian who attended the festival with his wife said "The bridge federation in Jordan should create a more interesting atmosphere in order to improve the quality of our players."

In fact, for many Jordanians, the competition was tough and many felt that there was a big scope to improve.

Mrs. Khouri said that "Although we did not come out first, it is the first time we participated in an international bridge tournament. It is a very pleasant experience. The atmosphere was welcoming and everybody was very nice."

Another Jordanian, Mr. Arafat Al Sahah, who won a prize for the best played hand in the tournament, said "The Egyptians were responsible, the prizes were valuable, the director did a good job, everybody was satisfied."

Mr. Awwad Haddad, the president of the Jordan Bridge Association, said "In Jordan, we have around 125 active members. Many are volunteers to give adv-

ice to beginners." The association deals with bridge festivals, teaching and tournaments. Meetings are held weekly either at the Orthodox or Al Urdon Club, and elections are held every second year.

Mr. Bahjat Majali, a Jordanian, who with his partner Mr. Samir Zein finished 16th in the open pairs, said that the level of Egyptian players is better than that of the Jordanians, for several reasons. They (the Egyptians) have a lot of weekly and yearly events. They participate in a lot of international tournaments. They play scientifically. They have fixed partnerships which leads to better understanding of the systems and they modify their own accordingly. They also read a lot of books. Mr. Majali added "One important point is that when they discuss the hand, they do it logically, they are easily convinced by each other's point of view, considering the percentage of making their contract, and they are also better than us in defence."

Mrs. Jeanette Mushahwar, a Jordanian participant, said "The competition was tough which made it all the more enjoyable."

Mr. Saliba Mushahwar said "I have participated in many international competitions in Kuwait, Lebanon and Cyprus; this one was one of the toughest." He added, "The reason is that my wife is my partner."

Judge Hassan Al Ramli, an Egyptian participant, said "It looks to me very successful, there is a variety of different countries. The discipline was all right." He added that they should have occupied people with more activities as many people were wondering how to spend their free time.

Derry City trounces Finn Harps

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland (AP) — Derry City, the Northern Ireland-based soccer club that plays only teams from the neighbouring Irish Republic, Sunday beat Finn Harps 3-0 to advance to the third round of the Football Association of Ireland Cup.

A capacity crowd of almost 12,000 packed into Derry's Brandywell stadium, which, until this season, stayed empty for 13 years after the Roman Catholic club withdrew from Northern Ireland's Protestant-dominated league.

The club returned to soccer action in the Republic's League of Ireland this season, 14 years after the sectarian violence that plagued this British-ruled province caught up with the sport.

In 1971, a bus that had carried the visiting Protestant team, Ballymena, was hijacked and burned out near Derry's stadium, which is situated at the heart of the staunchly pro-Roman Catholic Bogside area of the city.

The result was that other Protestant teams in the north's Irish League refused to play at Brandywell.

The club found an alternative venue that was approved by the other clubs, but it proved financially crippling and Derry City disappeared from Irish league

soccer a year later.

This season, the club has emerged to attract by far the biggest gates in either Northern Ireland or the Irish Republic. The attendance for Sunday's game was the biggest on either side of the border for five years.

"This victory gives us a fantastic boost," said Derry's chairman, James McCauley.

The fact that we can get so many families coming to the game is a social phenomenon in a city

which has experienced so much violence and political problems," he said.

Derry's victory was inspired by the Brazilian midfielder Nelson Da Silva — on loan from the Belgian club Beerschot — and although he failed to score, he played a part in all three goals.

All were scored in the first half. Brendan Bradley finding the target in the 36th and 42nd minutes after Barry McCreadie had given Derry a 21st minute lead.

Key Egyptian players will miss African Nation's Cup

ISMAILIA, Egypt (R) — Egypt will be without star striker Zakaria Nassef and two first-choice defenders for the African Nations' Soccer Cup finals next month, coach Mohammad Al Sayed Sadik said Sunday.

Sadik, usually known by his nickname Shitta, said Nassef of Cairo's National club was expected to be out of action for a month because of an old knee injury which required last week.

Defenders Mahmoud Saleh, also of National, and Tareq Suliman, of Port Said's Al Masri club, were also injured and would not recover in time for the tournament, he told Reuters.

Manager Mike Smith, who will announce his squad this week, called in Alaa Nabil of Arab Contractors to fill the gap.

He denied press reports that another defender, Mohammad Omar of Itihad, has been discharged because of injury. Omar, a regular starter since Smith took over last November, would resume training this week, he said.

Smith, a Briton who managed

Wales in the 1970s, will be taking Egypt into their first major tournament under his management. He and Shitta were speaking as the squad wrapped up a nine-day training session in this Suez Canal city.

Smith said his players were much fitter after the training camp but would not speculate on Egypt's chances in the eight-nation championship. He dismissed reports that the draw has given them more than their fair share of luck.

Egypt, drawn in a group with Senegal, Mozambique and Ivory Coast, "have got to play well to beat them," he said.

The other group includes World Cup finalists Morocco and Algeria; holders Cameroon and Zamb-

bia. The tournament opens on March 7 with Egypt playing Senegal in the first round-robin game in Cairo. The following day, Morocco take on Algeria in Alexandria. The semi-finals are on March 17 and the finals on March 21.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4602/12	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3867/72	Canadian dollars
	2.2870/80	West German marks
	2.5850/60	Dutch guilders
	1.9095/105	Swiss francs
	46.80/85	Belgian francs
	7.0225/75	French francs
	1555.5/56.5	Italian lire
	182.00/10	Japanese yen
	7.2875/925	Swedish crowns
	7.1450/500	Norwegian kroner
	8.4400/500	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	343.15/343.65	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices met steady demand on the opening day of the account with indices again at new highs.

Dealers noted good institutional demand with buying sentiment helped by factors including a favourable Confederation of British Industry monthly survey, former sterling and fresh U.S. interest. At 1530 GMT the FT 30 was eighteen points up at 1,274.0 after a record 1,275.8 and the FTSE 100 index 14.3 higher at 1,532.2 after a record 1,534.6.

ICI was 35p higher at 93p, Glaxo ended 25p up at 1,030 and Vickers firm 37p to 405 after full-year results. Government bonds showed net gains of as much as 1/4 point.

Among leading industrials: GKN rose 13p to 343. Bechtel added 12p to 383. Hawker Siddeley gained 24p to 539 and Lucas advanced 12p to 618.

Exco ended 10p higher at 244 after news it is in merger talks with merchant banker Morgan Grenfell. Willis Faber, a major stakeholder in Exco, closed 18p higher at 437. McAlpine rose 16p to 352 while S and W Beristord gained 10p to 166, both after full-year figures. Bid speculation saw Pilkington Brothers 21p up at 421, dealers said. Banks were lower on concern over Third World debt repayments, dealers added. Lloyds lost 15p to 472 and Midland shed 12p to 462.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, FEB. 25, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until sundown, upsetting incidents can occur to cause you anxiety, so expect and be prepared for them. Use this as an opportunity to find better solutions to all your problems.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be efficient and avoid making any mistakes at work. In the evening, put aside time to tend to financial affairs.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Your creativity is low in the morning, so be patient. In the evening, you get inspiration from another person.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Daytime may bring problems at home, so be careful in handling them. Do whatever will improve your health.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You may feel you are not living your professed philosophy of life, but try your best. Visit a prominent person tonight.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) If you are not careful, you could spend far more than you had planned to do. Tonight plan how to be more economical in the future.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 21) Although you may feel nervous in the morning, calm yourself. Steer clear of contacts who annoy you during the day.

LIBRA (Sept. 22 to Oct. 21) You seem to have a myriad of duties to perform, but be patient, and they are soon behind you. Exercise understanding at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 22 to Nov. 21) You may find it difficult to gain personal aims during the day, but you get the right slant towards evening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Use care in handling any credit or community affairs during the day, then enjoy socializing in the evening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be sure to study every phase of a new enterprise before you commit yourself to it. Enlist the aid of an expert.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study all reports and statements carefully for possible errors in them that could be very costly to you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Steer clear of a serious discussion with a partner until you are both in a better frame of mind. Rest at home tonight.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very exact and neat at whatever is important to do and will make few or no mistakes at all. Teach early not to criticize others who will not be similarly gifted. The field of medicine would be ideal.

THE Daily Crossword

by Florence Adler

ACROSS	DOWN
1. Bored	1. Bored
2. Egyptian god	2. Egyptian god
3. Ghetto	3. Ghetto
4. A Chaplin	4. A Chaplin
5. Astonishment	5. Astonishment
6. Swiss river	6. Swiss river
7. Lapse	7. Lapse
8. Arrow	8. Arrow
9. Plumtree fruit	9. Plumtree fruit
10. Wrestling	10. Wrestling
11. Defeated	11. Defeated
12. Defeat	12. Defeat
13. Pie — mode	13. Pie — mode
14. Parasite	14. Parasite
15. Excess	15. Excess
16. Nonsense	16. Nonsense
17. Calyx part	17. Calyx part
18. Deception	18. Deception
19. With regard to	19. With regard to
20. More sensible	20. More sensible
21. Sprinkle tray	21. Sprinkle tray
22. Dry	22. Dry
23. Dishes	23. Dishes
24. Hair part	24. Hair part
25. My ambo's	25. My ambo's
26. Frigid	26. Frigid
27. Leave stranded	27. Leave stranded
28. Vegas	28. Vegas
29. Terrace	29. Terrace
30. Upward	30. Upward
31. Arrow	31. Arrow
32. Duck	32. Duck
33. Sea (term of the Arctic)	33. Sea (term of the Arctic)
34. Talcum corn	34. Talcum corn
35. Obtuse	35. Obtuse
36. City, city	36. City, city
37. Iron	37. Iron
38. Colored	38. Colored
39. Unit of force	39. Unit of force
40. Ditch	40. Ditch
41. Head man	41. Head man
42. Trench	42. Trench
43. Ditch or	43. Ditch or
44. Certain birds	44. Certain birds
45. Pleading	45. Pleading
46. Pertaining to sound quality	46. Pertaining to sound quality
47. Encourage	47. Encourage

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Bored	2. Egyptian god	3. Ghetto	4. A Chaplin	5. Astonishment	6. Swiss river	7. Lapse	8. Arrow	9. Plumtree fruit	10. Wrestling	11. Defeated	12. Defeat	13. Pie — mode	14. Parasite	15. Excess	16. Nonsense	17. Calyx part	18. Deception	19. With regard to	20. More sensible	21. Sprinkle tray	22. Dry	23. Dishes	24. Hair part	25. My ambo's	26. Frigid	27. Leave stranded	28. Vegas	29. Terrace	30. Upward	31. Arrow	32. Duck	33. Sea (term of the Arctic)	34. Talcum corn	35. Obtuse	36. City, city	37. Iron	38. Colored	39. Unit of force	40. Ditch	41. Head man	42. Trench	43. Ditch or	44. Certain birds	45. Pleading	46. Pertaining to sound quality	47. Encourage
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China announces huge trade deficit

PEKING (R) — China's customs department Monday announced a record trade deficit of \$14 billion for 1985, almost double the figure issued last month by the foreign trade ministry.

Both figures represent an enormous increase on the 1984 deficit, put at \$1.1 billion by the ministry and about double the customs figure.

One foreign banker said the outlook for this year was bad. The customs figures are based on goods registered at customs posts and the ministry figures are taken from signed contracts.

The customs deficit would sharply reduce China's foreign exchange reserves which stood at \$14.42 billion at the end of 1984 and dropped to \$12.59 billion by last September.

"This deficit is even larger than I expected," one U.S. banker said. "With falling prices for oil and many commodities, key exports for China, the outlook for the first half of this year is not good," he said.

The deficit is a result of a spending spree on consumer goods like televisions and cars and materials to feed China's booming domestic economy.

But the figures show one significant milestone — last year China became a net exporter of foodgrains for the first time, with imports of wheat falling well behind exports of corn, rice and soybeans.

A Western diplomat said it was difficult to say how accurate Chinese statistics were and to know which of these two figures was the real deficit.

"If China wants to win confidence of investors worldwide, she must publish financial statistics which they are sure of," he said.

An increase in imports in the second half of last year indicate that an official tightening of controls on foreign exchange from the middle of 1985 was slow to take effect.

"The squeeze is on now, for consumer goods and cars," the banker said.

"But imports of technology and equipment and for key projects in transport and communications will not be affected," he added.

Ambrosiano liquidators seek to recover money from bank in Ireland

MILAN, Italy (R) — Three Italian officials winding up the affairs of the failed Banco Ambrosiano have begun a legal battle in Ireland to recover some \$40 million they say belonged to the Milan bank, judicial sources said Monday.

The money is currently deposited with a Dublin bank, Ambrosiano and Company Ltd, in several accounts in the names of shadowy companies managed from Hong Kong, the sources told Reuters.

The funds have been frozen by the Irish authorities pending settlement of the case, according to the sources, who requested anonymity.

Mr. Bruno Tassan Din, a former director of the Rizzoli publishing group and an associate of the Ambrosiano's late chairman, Roberto Calvi, maintains that the money rightfully belongs to him.

Mr. Tassan Din, who like Calvi was a member of the illegal P-2 Masonic lodge, is currently on bail awaiting trial on charges of involvement in the fraudulent collapse of the Ambrosiano, which crashed in 1982.

Mr. Tassan Din had told investigating magistrates the money had originally come from the Ambrosiano and had passed through a Panamanian-registered ghost company before ending up in the Dublin account, the sources said.

But he maintains that he received the money as payment for legitimate business.

MIAMI (AP) — Eastern Airlines, facing a shutdown threat from creditors demanding labour concessions, announced Monday that it had reached an agreement to be taken over by Texas Air Corp.

The company, which had faced a midnight Sunday deadline for the purchase offer about which it would reveal no details, blamed an uncooperative union for forcing the sale, Eastern spokesman, Mr. Glenn Parsons said in a news release.

It was not immediately clear which of the several unions representing Eastern workers was being referred to.

The decision to sell the carrier, which faced looming strike deadlines and threats of being declared in default on some loans by major creditors, "came following a meeting of Eastern's board of directors at which they considered an offer made Friday by Texas Air," Mr. Parsons said.

"There is tremendous potential in this agreement to make Eastern a much stronger and more competitive airline. There is no question that the sale was in the best interests of our employees and shareholders," the news release said.

No other details on the sale were available, although the company said they would be made available later.

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Iran claims support to cut oil output

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said Monday his plan for drastic cuts in production by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was supported by oil producers in addition to Algeria and Libya.

Mr. Aqazadeh spoke to reporters after a 90-minute meeting with his United Arab Emirates (UAE) counterpart, Dr. Mana Said Al Oteiba, which UAE oil sources said covered ways of combating the current slide in world prices.

His visit is part of an Iranian campaign to restore oil revenues. Tehran Sunday sent another envoy to Saudi Arabia to try to convince the Saudis to cut production.

Mr. Aqazadeh said on Saturday that Iran would propose that OPEC stop pumping oil for two weeks to a month and then resume production at sharply reduced rates.

Algeria and Libya have joined Iran in urging OPEC to cut output to boost prices, but have not so far publicly supported the idea of halting production completely for two weeks.

Asked if Iran was prepared to cut production alone or with just Algeria and Libya, Mr. Aqazadeh told Reuters: "There are countries other than the three you

have mentioned which have informed Iran of their readiness to cooperate in this respect."

He declined to name them. Mr. Aqazadeh said the Iranian position was not subject to change. "If the objective of the West is to reduce prices as much as possible, our aim is to bring prices to the required level and to preserve them. We are not going to go back from our position."

The UAE has not publicly responded to the Iranian idea, but Dr. Oteiba was one of five OPEC ministers who agreed earlier this month that OPEC should preserve market share and therefore keep output above the 16 million barrels per day (b/d) ceiling it had previously set.

OPEC may invite non-members to meeting, newsletter says

Meanwhile, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday that OPEC may invite non-member oil exporters to a joint meeting after its own con-

ference in Geneva next month. "A full ministerial meeting of some kind is almost certain to take place in Geneva on March 16," the Nicosia-based newsletter said, but added it was not clear what form it would take.

MEES said most members of OPEC would prefer to meet non-members after Geneva, rather than accept a proposal to invite "friendly Third World producers" such as Mexico, Egypt and Oman to Geneva.

They favour defining OPEC's strategy towards non-members at Geneva, followed by a joint meeting aimed at stabilising the oil market by regulating production levels, it said.

Saudi Arabia believes Britain's role is crucial for any production agreement, but an invitation only to countries likely to attend would almost certainly exclude Britain, MEES said.

Arab oil producers advise to continue oil, gas investments

On the other hand, an Arab oil expert advised Arab oil producers to continue to invest in oil and gas projects, despite present market conditions.

Mr. Aziz Amara Korba, director of the Arab Engineering Consultancy Company (AREC), an affiliate of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Cou-

tries (OAPEC), told a symposium on oil project financing in Abu Dhabi that oil and gas would remain the main sources of energy for a long time to come and all other alternatives would remain secondary.

Mr. Korba said the current market made it essential that close cooperation should be established between financial, engineering and construction companies in the oil and gas sector to prevent "negative repercussions" from affecting long-term investment plans.

He said some hard-pressed Arab exporters might have to resort to borrowing to continue to finance their development projects.

Mr. Mahmoud Hamra Krouba, managing director of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) also underlined the importance of long-term planning to sustain the fall in oil revenues.

He warned against the continuation of "hasty implementation" of projects, as in past years when all oil exporters enjoyed high liquidity.

The three-day symposium will discuss 19 papers devoted to financing problems facing petroleum projects. The participants will also try to identify what kind of projects Arab countries will need until the end of the century, their cost and how to finance them.

Reeling dollar confounds currency markets

LONDON (R) — A year ago the dollar ruled supreme, turning world currency markets into turmoil because of what seemed an unquenchable thirst for the greenback.

But in 12 months the American currency has lost around a third of its value against its major rivals, a precipitate decline that has caused a high-level split in Washington about whether further falls are welcome or not.

If a week is a long time in politics, it can be an aeon in electronic currency markets, where rates gyrate by the minute.

In February 1985 the British pound looked poised to sink below parity with the dollar for the first time ever as weaker oil prices threatened prospects for Britain's North Sea oil.

The dollar was also then buying more marks, around 3.30 than it had for 13 years and more yen, over 260, than for two years. It had broken all previous records against the French franc and Italian lira.

Oil prices are again on the skids, having fallen to nearly half last year's levels. Yet sterling now stands around 40 per cent higher against the dollar than it did a year ago.

The yen is at its worst against the dollar in seven years, and the West German mark and the Swiss franc are hovering at three-year highs against the American currency.

Whereas a year ago the world's major central banks were selling billions of dollars in a frantic scramble to defuse the dollar's strength, many in the world financial community are now fretting over how to prevent a dollar collapse.

Fears of choking off economic growth in a sluggish economy have nudged U.S. interest rates lower

over the past year, making dollars a less attractive home for loose funds.

The dollar's decline was set seriously in motion last September when the five top industrialised nations, the so-called "Group of Five," agreed to cooperate in steering the dollar lower on the world's currency markets.

At a meeting in New York, the finance ministers of the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain and France decided that an ever-soaring dollar was posing a sufficient threat to the world economy for concerted action to be taken against it.

It is this change in perception, interwoven with worries about how Washington will cope with a budget deficit set to top \$200 billion, that has dented confidence in the U.S. financial system and, in turn, the dollar, say analysts.

Non-oil producers like Japan and West Germany also stand to benefit more from the collapse in the oil market.

"There is a feeling that the growth rates of the major economies are converging, while the U.S. economy is developing internal problems of its own with regard to its budget deficit and its links with Latin American debtors," says Mr. Stephen Lewis, head economist at London stockbroker Phillips and Drew.

America's budget deficit was large last year too. But the belief that the Federal Reserve would take tough action to keep interest rates high attracted investors to the dollar.

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Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



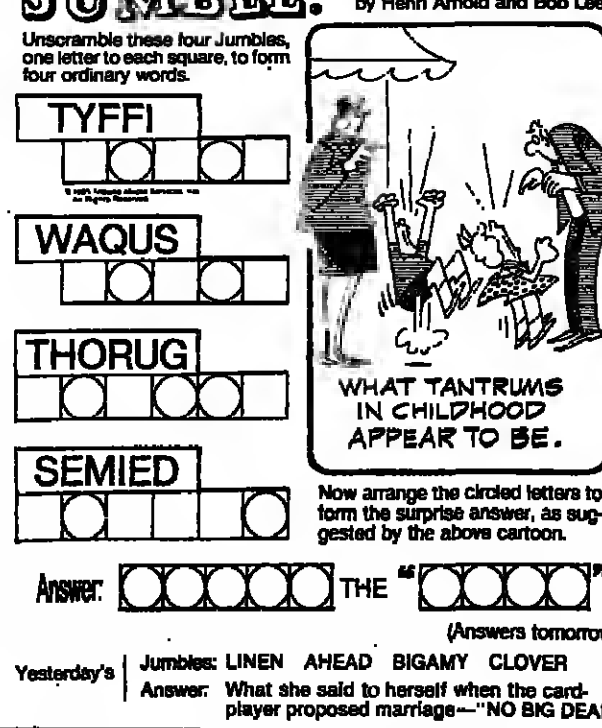
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



Police seize medical records of S. African protest victims

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police seized medical records Monday from a black township clinic which treated casualties during four days of bloody protests last week.

In township unrest around South Africa overnight, a black youth was killed and at least five people were injured, police said. Tim Wilson, supervisor of the clinic in Alexandra township, near Johannesburg, said five armed plainclothes policemen led by a Col. Visser arrived at the clinic.

They had a search warrant and took away the records of 175 patients treated in the past 10 days, he said.

"They said they were looking for records of people who had come in with gunshot wounds or people who had been brought in dead after the rioting," Wilson told Reuters.

A police spokesman said the documents were later returned.

Police say 19 people died in violence which began after a funeral 10 days ago. Local community groups say the death toll could be as high as 46.

Wilson said he regarded the records as confidential between doctor and patient and protested strongly when they were seized.

"I think it will deter patients with gunshot wounds from coming to the clinic, I am told there are many patients who have been worried that if they come to the clinic the police will get in-

formation on them," he said. "I am very concerned that in the context of the present unrest, the police presence here may make it appear that we are associated with the police and I fear for the safety of the clinic and the staff if we are perceived in that light."

Police said Monday a black youth died when police fired shotguns and teargas in Zwide in eastern Cape province to break up a black crowd who threw stones and petrol bombs at police vehicles and police houses.

Blacks stoned a police vehicle in KwaDabaza in Natal province, injuring a policeman, and police fired back with tear-gas, shotguns and pistols, wounding three blacks, police said.

Another policeman was slightly hurt when his vehicle was stoned in Bridgeton in south western Cape province.

More than 1,130 people have died in two years of violence over apartheid.

In the Indian Ocean port of Durban, a black youth appeared in court Monday and admitted planting a bomb which killed five white people at a nearby holiday resort last December.

Andrew Zondo, 19, told the court he did not intend to kill any-

one when he planted a mine at Amanzimtoti.

He pleaded not guilty to five counts of murder.

Tutu under renewed attack

South Africa's pro-government media attacked dissident clergyman, primarily Bishop Desmond Tutu, Monday for seeking tighter anti-apartheid economic measures.

The attacks on state-run radio and the daily newspaper the Citizen appeared to reflect growing anger at calls by anti-government activists for more pressure on Pretoria.

In a scathing attack on Nobel Peace laureate Tutu, the pro-government Citizen asked in an editorial: "We would certainly like to know what the hell the bishop is about?"

The bishop joined other churchmen recently in urging foreign banks not to help Pretoria to resolve a foreign debt crisis precipitated by violence in black townships.

Tutu, asked by Reuters to comment on the criticism, said: "We shall continue to do what we believe is right."

A radio commentary that invariably reflects government thinking attacked the role of the clergyman in politics and asked: "At what point does his primary loyalty to the moral imperatives imposed by his church shift to the pol-

itics of power with its opportunistic compromises with principle?"

South Africa reached an interim accord with its creditors on Thursday, winning a breathing space in repaying \$14 billion of debt frozen last September.

Meanwhile five members of a Commonwealth panel set up to explore ways of promoting peace in South Africa were expected to begin a visit to Botswana Monday, state-run South African radio said.

The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) said the group would exchange views with the government of President Quett Masire. It did not say how long the visit would last.

Three members of the panel spent last week in South Africa, where they had talks with community leaders and ministers in the white-dominated government.

The group, set up after a Commonwealth summit last October, aims to promote negotiations between the South African government and the 74 per cent black majority.

SABC said the five visiting Botswana are former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, former British Finance Minister Anthony Barber, former Tanzanian Foreign Minister John Malecela, chairman of the World Council of Churches Dame Nita Barrow and Archbishop Edward Stott, primate of Canada's Anglican Church.

Sikh extremists raid police station

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — Four Sikh extremists raided a police station in troubled Punjab state Monday and escaped with 16 rifles and large amounts of ammunition, police said.

No one was injured in the nighttime raid on the government's railway police post in Tarn Taran, about 20 kilometres south of this Sikh holy city.

The four Sikhs drove up to the station in the middle of the night, stole a rifle from a guard and broke into the arms and ammunition storeroom while the guards were sleeping, police said.

They took 15 rifles and 475 cartridges, loaded them into their car and fled while three guards were sleeping, police said.

It was the latest in a mounting series of attacks and robberies by Sikh extremists, many of whom seek a separate Sikh nation in Punjab.

Scores of people, mostly Hindus and Sikh moderates, have been killed in hit-and-run terrorist attacks this year in Punjab.

Opposition leaders in Punjab, describing the situation in the violence-torn state as critical, Sunday urged Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to fully implement his 1985 peace accord with Sikh moderates, the United News of India (UNI) reported.

At a meeting in Jullundur, opposition leaders said escalating Sikh terrorism had brought the 4-month-old state government dominated by Sikh moderates on the brink of collapse, according to UNI.

The news agency quoted a resolution passed at the meeting as saying that Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala's recent warning about imposition of army rule "holds him to public ridicule for his inefficiency and incompetency in tackling the problems of Punjab."

Mr. Barnala, the top state official, warned Friday that Punjab might have to be governed by martial law for an indefinite period if growing terrorist violence forced the collapse of his government.

Critics say that Mr. Gandhi's failure to merge disputed Chandigarh territory with Punjab has weakened the position of Sikh moderates in state politics. Under the peace accord, the merger was to have taken place by Jan. 25.

In a Sunday message on the eve of the birth anniversary of a Sikh guru, Mr. Barnala urged Punjab's 18 million people to build a state free from religious hatred, suspicion and bitterness.

He declined to discuss the congress agenda in detail, saying it would be officially approved Tuesday as one of the meeting's first actions. Mr. Zamyatin would not say how long the congress would last.

But he said most of the first day would be devoted to Mr. Gorbachev's appearance to read the "political report" from the Central Committee and to discuss the new edition of the party programme.

The political report will "essentially be a summary of the party's work between the last congress (in 1981) and this one, and also of the Soviet Union's foreign and domestic policy," he said.

Kremlin officials will hold individual press conferences on various aspects of the marathon speech over the next few days, he said, including a rare appearance by a member of the ruling Politburo, Geidar A. Aliev, to discuss "social policies of the USSR."

The congress is expected to unveil the biggest shakeup ever in the membership of the Central Committee, whose makeup is ratified by the congress in a ritual election on one of its final days.

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Seoul opposition vows to continue campaign

SEOUL (R) — South Korean opposition Chief Yi Min-U Monday vowed to press ahead with a campaign to demand direct presidential polls after failing to make a breakthrough on electoral reforms in talks with President Chun Doo Hwan.

As Mr. Chun and Mr. Yi met in the Blue House presidential palace, 300 members of Mr. Yi's New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) added their signatures to a petition demanding changes in the electoral system, party officials said.

"I made clear to President Chun that unless he announces a programme towards democratisation we will peacefully continue the campaign," Mr. Yi told party members.

The chairman of the NKDP explained, however, that Mr. Chun had made some concessions, such as assuring the opposition chief that police would not in future blockade NKDP headquarters as they had last week to prevent members entering.

Mr. Yi said Mr. Chun has also agreed to meet him in future to discuss constitutional changes, although Mr. Chun repeated that the scheduled change of power when he steps down in 1988 should be under the present constitution.

NKDP officials said Mr. Chun had promised for the first time that the government or ruling party would change the constitution in 1989.

Mr. Chun also said that such a change could be dealt with in discussions between the ruling and opposition parties in parliament, the officials said.

The opposition want the constitution changed before Mr. Chun steps down in 1988 to provide for direct presidential elections instead of by the current electoral college system.

An NKDP spokesman said after the meeting that Mr. Chun had not solved the core of the problems, but had merely dealt with "branch matters."

The government, which says the petition campaign is illegal, earlier lifted a 12-day house arrest order on leading dissident Kim Dae-Jung, who has backed the campaign despite being banned from politics.

Meanwhile, police have withdrawn from outside the offices of a dissident organisation called the Council for Promotion of Democracy where they have been stationed since the signature campaign began on Feb. 12.

Political observers noted that Mr. Chun had made some concessions in a bid to defuse a growing confrontation between the two sides, but may not have gone far enough to suit opposition leaders.

Mr. Kim met Mr. Yi and fellow dissident Kim Young-Sam at a Seoul hotel this morning to discuss latest developments.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) last week offered to discuss election changes in parliament but this was initially rejected by the opposition.

Kim Dae-Jung told reporters at his home: "I hope the government will not resort any more to house arrest, the blockading of opposition offices or persecution of those signing our petition."

"These violent and illegal acts cannot result in a solution. Only democracy can solve the problems we are facing now," he said.

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21 Chinese trampled to death at festival

PEKING (AP) — Twenty-one people were trampled to death at a Lantern Festival in the eastern province of Jiangsu as a crowd was pressing forward to see the lanterns, a newspaper reported.

More than nine other people were injured in the accident, said the Shanghai Evening News. Some 100,000 people were at the festival when the accident occurred, the newspaper said. It blamed the accident on poor organisation and poor crowd control. The Chinese traditionally hold festivals with elaborate, brightly coloured lanterns on the 15th day of the first month of the Lunar New Year.

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2 protest eggs hit British Queen

AUCKLAND (R) — A New Zealand and protester Monday hit Queen Elizabeth with an egg and Prime Minister David Lange said he would apologise personally to the head of state for what he called a deplorable and unacceptable attack.

The egg hurled by a young woman hit the Queen low on the thigh, leaving a smear down her pink coat.

An egg thrown by a second woman hit the windscreen on the open-backed four-wheel drive vehicle in which the Queen was touring a gathering of 42,000 schoolchildren at Auckland's Ellerslie Race Track.

The egg splattered over the glass and splashed onto the Queen's clothes. The Queen seemed to recover quickly after at first appearing visibly upset by the attacks.

Mr. Lange called the attacks deplorable and unacceptable. He said in a statement he would apologise personally to the Queen.

As police dragged the two women away from angry spectators, one of the egg-throwers shouted at reporters: "they (members of royalty) come here, they don't honour the (Waitangi) treaty, it's a complete ripoff."

The 146-year-old treaty of Waitangi in which Maori tribes ceded sovereignty to Queen Victoria has become a symbol for a variety of radical causes in New Zealand over recent years.

The attacks were linked to other small protests held since the Queen arrived on Saturday for a state visit.

About 25 protesters waved banners and yelled "go home" at the Queen during a Polynesian festival show, and a spokesman for the group said guarantees on land and fishing rights given in the treaty had never been honoured.

Police told Reuters the two women, aged 20 and 21, would appear in court Tuesday charged with assault and disorderly behaviour.

The charges normally carry a fine, not a jail sentence. Like most of the protesters at the Polynesian show, the two egg-throwing women were whites and some Maoris in the crowd were clearly angered by their action.

Maori elder Pateora Mahi, who wore a traditional feather cloak and carved bone ornament, told Reuters: "They don't represent Maoris; they should stay in their own backyards."

The Queen carried on with her planned programme, meeting people in Auckland's city centre and often approaching within touching distance of crowd control barriers.

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Gorbachev opens party congress today

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will kick off the 27th Communist Party Congress on Tuesday with a daylong speech on foreign policy, economic programmes and party ideology, a Kremlin spokesman said Monday.

The official, Leonid Zamyatin, spoke at the first of a series of daily news conferences planned for the more than 2,000 Soviet and foreign journalists accredited to cover the congress.

Vadim Zagladin, deputy chief of the party Central Committee's International Department, also appeared at the news conference Monday.

He declined to discuss the congress agenda in detail, saying it would be officially approved Tuesday as one of the meeting's first actions. Mr. Zamyatin would not say how long the congress would last.

But he said most of the first day would be devoted to Mr. Gorbachev's appearance to read the "political report" from the Central Committee and to discuss the new edition of the party programme.

The political report will "essentially be a summary of the party's work between the last congress (in 1981) and this one, and also of the Soviet Union's foreign and domestic policy," he said.

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Catholic conference backs dialogue with Cuba

HAVANA (R) — Cuba's Roman Catholic Church has ended a week-long conference which endorsed a policy of dialogue with the Communist government.

"I think this meeting ratifies and gives support to something that was already an expressed attitude," conference spokesman Manuel De Cespedes told a press conference.

"We are talking about collaboration and cooperation, but precisely because we have a different vision of things we are talking about a dialogue," he added.

About 180 bishops, priests, nuns and laymen, meeting at a Havana convent, discussed and approved resolutions calling on the church to continue spreading the Christian faith in Cuba without challenging the Socialist nature of its society.

Church-state relations went through a difficult phase after Cuba's 1959 revolution.

However, they have improved in recent years following statements by President Fidel Castro that Marxism and Christianity can be allies in fighting social injustice.

A final document issued by the Cuban National Ecclesiastical Encounter (ENEC) stressed the church's commitment to spreading the gospel through a dialogue with various sectors of society.

But Mr. De Cespedes said this did not mean the church was bent on a massive conversion of Cuba's 10 million population.

"Conversion is not the only aim of evangelisation... Evangelisation is fundamentally the putting into practice of Christian values in the world in which we live," he said.

During the conference, church officials announced that steps were being taken to canonise Father Felix Varela, a 19th century priest who was one of the precursors of Cuban independence.

Cuba's state-controlled media gave scant coverage to the conference, but President Castro had a meeting with the Pope John Paul's special envoy to the event, Cardinal Eduardo Pironio, the state news agency Prensa Latina reported.

Leading Haitian voodoo priest warns of religious war

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haiti's most prominent voodoo priest, freshly relieved from police detention, has warned that Haiti risked a religious war and "the worst bloodshed the island has known."

Police Saturday detained Max Beauvoir and eight other voodoo priests and priestesses for defying a ban on public demonstrations, which was imposed by Haiti's new provisional government on Feb. 8, a day after the fall of Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Those detained, police said, included Carole Desmoulin, one of Haiti's most popular folk singers and a leading exponent of voodoo.

Beauvoir, a 49-year-old U.S.-educated biochemist, said Sunday the nine-hour detention was part of a government campaign to wipe out voodoo — a mixture of Catholicism, animism and witchcraft practiced by the majority of Haitians often concurrently with Roman Catholicism.

The government is favouring the Roman Catholic Church. They ignore attacks against us (voodoo adherents). They want a religious war between us and the Catholics," Beauvoir told reporters Sunday.

"If this happens, it would mean the worst bloodshed the country has ever known."

Beauvoir, who runs a flourishing voodoo temple in the capital, said the government was turning a blind eye on Catholic-led violence against voodoo and claimed 11 priests have been beaten to death by mobs last week.

"Ten of our hounfours (temples) were invaded in Cap-Haitien on Tuesday. Ten hounfours (priests) were beaten to death. Another was killed on Wednesday. Those responsible were hoodlums led by Catholic priests," he said.

There was no independent confirmation of Beauvoir's claim and no government authorities were available for comment. The church has denied any role in anti-voodoo violence.

Diplomats saw Beauvoir's detention and his angry charges against the new leadership here as evidence of growing friction between the Roman Catholic hierarchy, supported by the government, and adherents of voodoo.

Voodoo-Christian frictions, foreign residents here say, stem partly from attempts by both sides to claim credit for ousting Jean-Claude Duvalier, whose departure ended 28 years of dictatorial rule by the Duvalier family.

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